

ZH BOOKS

At ZH BOOKS, I specialize in antiquarian Slavic material and unusual ephemera in English and other European languages. I guarantee that all items are as described. Returns are accepted for within ten days of receipt.

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March 2023

E-list 15



1. [Vinegar Valentine] *Anonymous You Would Get Married*

\$125.00

New York: US Engraving Works, n. d. (second half of the 19th century); Broadside; 11 1/2 x 6 1/4; hand-colored illustration with a six-line poem below; small part of the image colored at a later date; faint intersecting crease lines with tiny nicks to edges of creases; small, period manuscript notes to bottom of recto and top of verso; tiny square of paper excised from lower left margin; overall in very good condition.

Comic valentines, later to become known as vinegar valentines or Penny Dreadful, began to flourish in the US and Britain in the 1840s. Unlike the pretty, sentimental, conventional ones, the former were cheap, teasing, or even downright mean and insulting, and they usually made fun of traits, physical characteristics, or professions. Although produced in tremendous quantities, given their popularity, not many of the early ones have survived, as people naturally got rid of the nasty notes.

The current one depicted a disheveled man, sitting and holding a baby and a small child, with another toddler sprawled in his feet, all three yowling and tear-stained. The text read: "Poor fool, allow me to extend / The sympathy of a pitying friend; / These things are always learned when it's too late, / For babies come as sure as fate; / There are plenty of fellows in your same condition, / Who find matrimony a living perdition." To add insult to injury, whomever gifted the valentine had added two extra-snippy manuscript notes - "This is what you will look like an year from now" and "Look Before You Leap."

2. [Advertising] *Maher & Grosh The Latest Out! New Whistle and Call, THE DEVELINE*

\$30.00



Toledo, Ohio: s. n., n. d. (1895). Leaflet; 6 3/4 x 3; single sheet, text to recto only; thin, off-white stock, printed in black; illustrated with an engraving; light outline of a pencil erasure to upper margin, else very minor wear; very good to near fine.

Published by a company in Ohio, known for producing cutlery, knives, firearms, etc., presumably to advertise the newest product they would carry, the leaflet touted the virtues of the Develine - a siren whistle for cyclists, patented in 1895 by the Mossberg Wrench Company in Attleboro, Mass. It read, in part: "For an ear-piercing, soul-harrowing, nerve-shattering noise, with which nothing that nature produces can compare, we recommend this new whistle. If you wish your neighbors to rush for their shotguns, dogs to start for the cellars, cats to die of envy, and all living beings to start up in heart-broken protest, buy one of these and blow it...". The leaflet goes on to describe the whistle's effects, mentioning ear-piercing, soul-harrowing, nerve-shattering noise, and its ability to startle neighbors, dogs, and cats. It also mentions the whistle's use in deterring children and the shrieks of delirium. The leaflet concludes with the manufacturer's name, Maher & Grosh, Toledo, O.

3. [Map of England Collage of Pre-decimal Queen Elizabeth II Stamps] V. R. (Richards, Vera) There Will Always Be an England

\$350.00

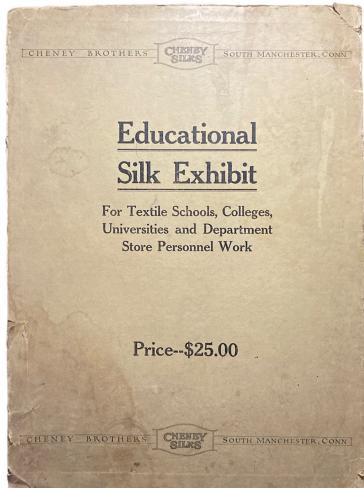
S. 1. (Tiverton): By the author, ca 1957 - 1963. Collage of die-cut stamps on a white stock, affixed to a larger card stock sheet; map approx. 8 1/2 x 4 1/2; sheets 10 x 7 and 10 3/4 x 8 1/4; subtitled and initialed in manuscript in black ink; two very minor spots and a slight ripple to bottom margin of paper; in very good to near fine condition.

A wonderful, somewhat quirky design - vintage, yet bearing a distinctive modern aesthetic - it was created in the early years of the reign of Queen Elizabeth II by one Vera Richards of Tiverton, Devon (provenance - previous owner). Each of the stamps, some cancelled and others not, featured the face of the Queen and all of them were pre-decimal. Meticulously die-cut and overlapped, they rendered a very-accurate outline of the map of England.



4. [Silk] Cheney Brothers Educational Silk Exhibit. For Textile Schools, Colleges, Universities and Department Store Personnel Work

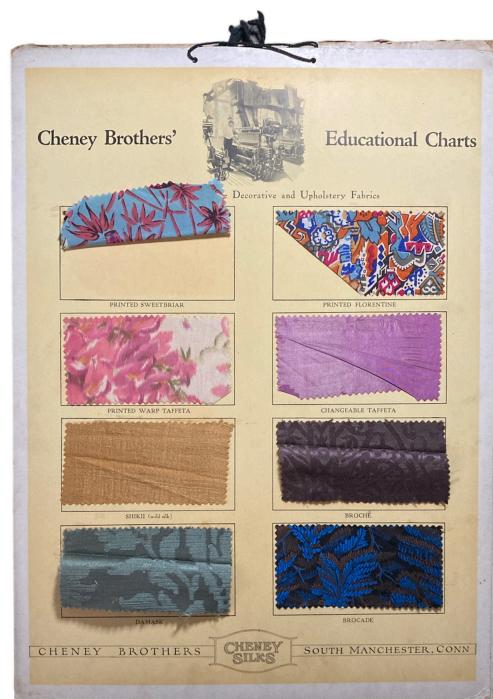
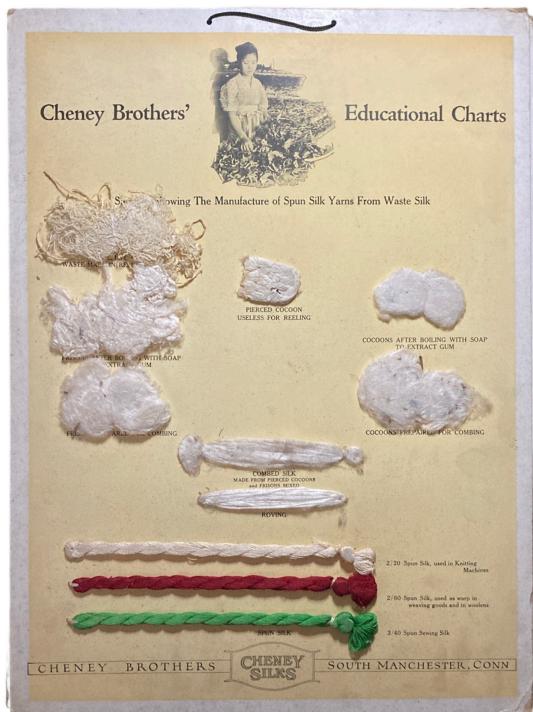
\$950.00



South Manchester, CT: Cheney Brothers, n. d. (ca 1906). First edition presumed; 17 x 12 1/2; large, heavy, card stock portfolio (the two boards separated), printed in black; eight wall charts on heavy card stock, illustrated with photographs, drawings, and silk samples; seven of them with a string to upper margin for hanging; boards with scuffing to edges and some age-toning and spotting; charts with a bit of rubbing and wear to edges and corners; two of the charts missing two swatches of fabric each; overall in good to very good condition.

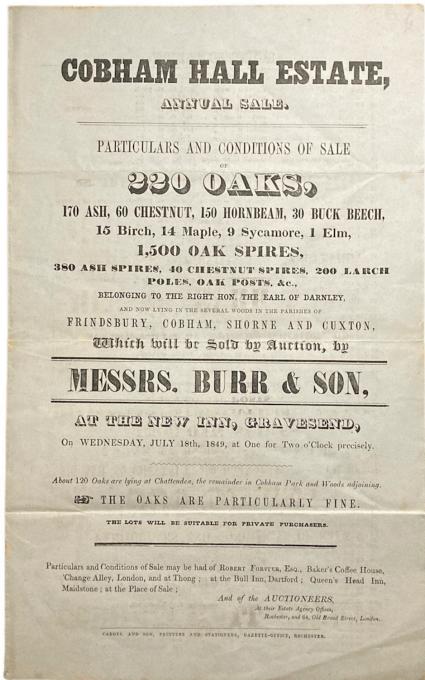
The Cheney brothers of Manchester - Ward, Frank, and Rush - began their career by investing in cultivating the notoriously-difficult to grow mulberry trees, the food source of the silkworm, in 1833. Quickly realizing that the project would be a failure and that the money lay in processing, rather than in raw production, the brothers partnered with their other brother Ralph and another investor and opened the Mt. Nebo Silk Mills in 1838, which would be renamed the Cheney Brothers Silk Manufacturing Company in 1854. By the time the second Industrial Revolution rolled in in the 1860s, the Cheney business was well on its way to becoming the largest silk manufacturer in the United States and the only company to manage all phases of silk production, but the actual raising of silkworms. Instead, they imported silk cocoons from Asia.

The Cheney brothers were not only businessmen, but also inventors (their patented Rixford Roller would revolutionize the silk manufacturing process), investors (an employee of theirs and an ex-Colt firearms employee, Christopher Spencer, would invent and patent his revolutionary Spencer Gun in 1860, with the Cheneys' backing, in their own factory), philanthropists (they would build numerous community centers, schools, hospitals, a railroad, etc.), and generous employers (providing free, on-site, modern accommodations for the workers and their families). Unfortunately, the Great Depression and later, during WWII, the ushering of synthetic fabrics, would spell the demise of the company, which would ultimately be bought and dismantled by the J.P. Stevens and Co. of New York in 1955. The current educational charts, lavish and well-executed, showed the cultivated stages of silk, including actual cocoons and frisons, and provided numerous samples (over 30) of silk ropes and raw-silk threads, and pile, gown, necktie, upholstery, and decorative silk fabrics.



5. [Auction Catalog] *Messrs. Burr & Son Cobham Hall Estate, Annual Sale*

\$150.00



Rochester: Caddel and Son, 1849. Large brochure; 13 1/4 x 8 1/4; pp. [4]; heavy, cream stock, printed in several fancy fonts; small nick to tail of spine; two horizontal crease lines with a bit of dust-dulling along creases; a few minor spots of foxing; in very good condition.

An elegant and elaborate auction sale announcement, it advertised the sale of prime timber - hundreds of oak, chestnut, maple, elm, birch, etc. trees - belonging to the Earl of Darnley and "lying in the several woods in the parishes of Frindsbury, Cobham, Shorne, and Cuxton." Each lot was described with its location, markings, cubic ft, and so on. Cobham Hall, one of the largest and, arguably, most important country houses in Kent, which traces its history back to the 12th century, nowadays houses Cobham Hall School - a private, boarding school for girls.

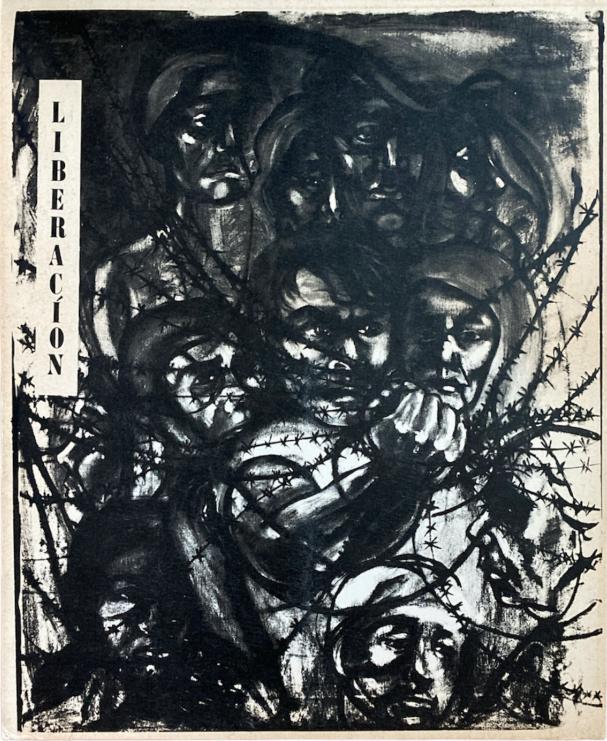
6. [Gypsies] *Gibson, G. W. Charles Faa Blyth [sic], King of Yetholm Gipsies*

\$45.00

S. l. (Scotland): G. W. Gibson, n. d. (ca 1902). Real-photo postcard; 5 1/2 x 3 1/2; unused; a few minor spots to verso; in very good or better condition.

Charles Faa Blythe, crowned on May 30, 1898, was the last Gypsy King of Scotland. The elaborate ceremony in the Borders village of Kirk Yetholm was witnessed by a crowd of 10 000 people, including Lords and Ladies, and was said to have been one of the earliest recorded examples of a "massive PR stunt" by the local inn- and hostel-keepers. The rituals included breaking a whiskey bottle over the head of the king and tying a rabbit around his neck. The king's reign lasted for just four years, until his sudden death in April of 1902.





7. [Chicano Art Movement] *Montoya, Malaquias Liberacion*

\$450.00

S. l. : By the artist, n. d. (ca 1977). Poster; 22 x 18; thick card stock with a monochrome illustration and title; a bit of wear to corners and light age-toning along margins; in very good condition.

A stunning poster, depicting people struggling through barbed wire, it was created by one of the major figures of the Chicano Art Movement of the 1960s and 1970s Malaquias Montoya (1938 -). Credited with being a co-founder of the social serigraphy movement in the San Francisco Bay Area in the mid-1960s, he has been known for his "art of protest, depicting the strength and

resistance of humanity in the face of injustice." The poster, though undated, was most probably created around 1977, based on a very-similar one at UC Santa Barbara. The latter was titled: "Remember Chile" and called for a "Rally for a Free Chile" at Glide Church, supporting the people's struggle against Pinochet's dictatorship.

8. [WWI] *Anonymous WWI Victory Button Proofs*

\$100.00

S. l.: By the author, n. d. (1918). Artist proof; 3 1/4 x 5; glossy, off-white stock with six identical, circular button designs in 2 rows by 3; minor wear - near fine condition.

A wonderful design by an anonymous artist, the button depicted the intertwined flags of the war's victors, with "VICTORY" printed below.





9. [Education] Various Penmanship Copybooks

\$850.00

Various places: Various publishers, 1857 - 1873. Eight notebooks; various sizes, various pagination; colorful, engraved and decorated wraps in yellow, green, gray, beige, and red; filled in manuscript in different hands; overall in very good condition, with occasional spotting and small nicks to edges; two of them with period, hand-stitched repairs to spine; one with loss of paper to lower corner of back wrap and a small, archival-paper repair to upper corner of front wrap.

In the 18th century, handwriting had been a highly-valued skill, but the history of American penmanship, arguably, did not start until the publication of John Jenkins' "Art of Writing" in 1791. Prior to that, the only reference material used had been European copybooks. In the first half of the 19th century, various penmanship systems would be developed and different copybooks would be published, including Spencer's, Dunton's, Potter's, and others - some focusing on speed, others on specific "muscular movement," and yet others - on complicated, ornamental styles. Most commercially produced copybooks had beautiful cover art, with fancy fonts, woodcuts, steel engravings, and many had the multiplication table printed on the back wrap. Usually, instructions were enclosed on the front wrap verso. A number of them contained handwriting examples, to be copied repeatedly, while others just had blank, lined paper. Sometimes, examples seen here, the students used the notebooks to practice writing by keeping a diary, or even by recording financial transactions.

- "Payson, Dunton and Scribner's Combined System of Rapid Penmanship for Vermont Schools. Boston: Crosby, Nichols and Company, 1857."
- "Payson, Dunton and Scribner's National System of Penmanship in 12 Numbers. Revised and Improved. Book 7. New York: Potter, Ainsworth and Company, 1873."
- "Spencerian System of Penmanship, Books 1 and 2. New York and Chicago: Ivison, Blakeman, Taylor and Co., 1873."
- "Specimens of Penmanship. S. l.: s. n., n. d. (1870s)."
- "Potter and Hammond's Synthetical, Analytical, and Progressive System of Penmanship in Twelve Numbers, Book 4. Philadelphia and New York: Schermerhorn, Bancroft and Co., 1861."
- "Anonymous (The Property of...). S. l.: s. n., n. d. (1860s)."
- "Writing Primer. Introductory to the Duntonian Copy Books. Boston: Lee and Shepard, 1873."

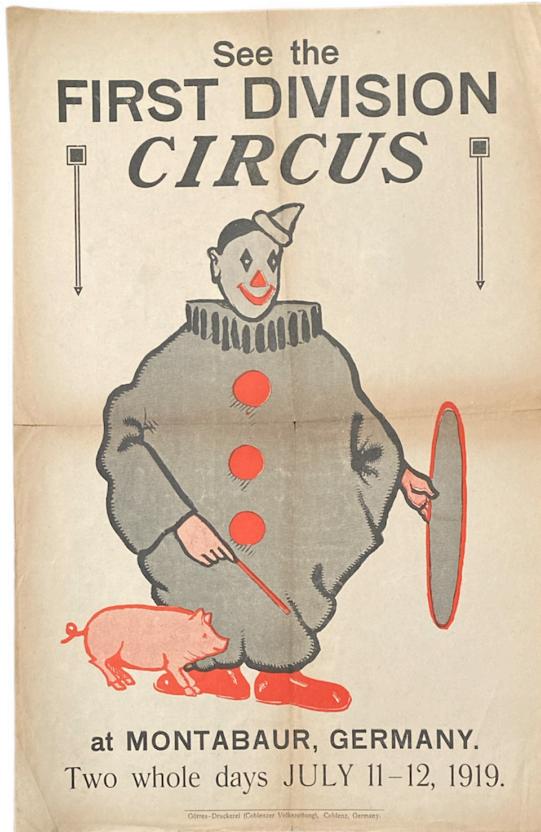
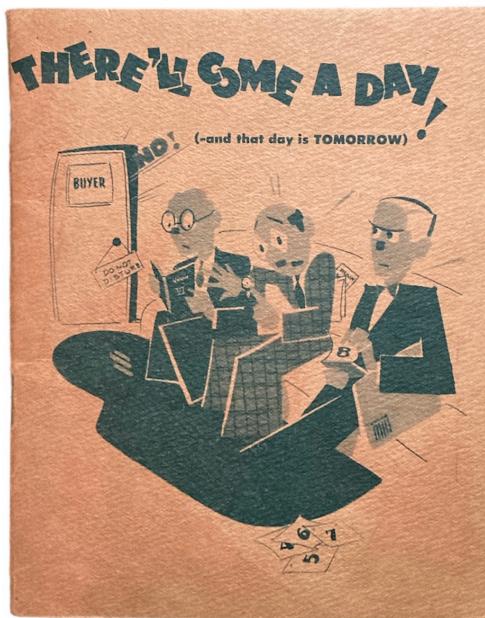
10. [Advertisement] *Minneapolis-Honeywell Regulator Company There'll Come a Day (-and That Day is Tomorrow)*

\$50.00

Minneapolis: Minneapolis-Honeywell Regulator Co., 1947. First edition; 5 1/4 x 4 1/4; pp. [20]; brick-red, pictorial wraps; yellow paper stock, illustrated with green, monochrome caricatures; minor wear to edges and tips of spine; slight offset to first page's margins from the wrap; very good or better.

A rambling, hilarious, rhyming advertisement for the Minneapolis-Honeywell Company, it highlighted their efforts to secure metals for their production amidst severe shortages of steel, aluminum, etc. in the aftermath of WWII and ultimately assured their customers that "The point to remember (did we hear a groan?) / Is we still build controls and, by golly, we've grown. / If we don't have equipment to sell you don't sorrow- / There'll come a day - and that day is tomorrow."

The company's beginnings dated back to 1885, when inventor Albert Butz founded the Butz Thermo-Electric Regulator Co. and patented the so called "damper flapper" - the precursor to present-day thermostat. The business would eventually create various industrial regulators, chemical dyes, and even become the largest producer of high-quality jeweled clocks. It would also go through several transformations and mergers, acquiring the name Minneapolis-Honeywell Regulator Company in 1927. The company would play a critical role in the Apollo 11 mission, supplying 16 000 different parts to the various control systems.



11. [WWII] *Anonymous* See the First Division Circus at Montabaur, Germany. Two Whole Days
July 11-12, 1919

\$450.00

Coblenz: Gorres-Druckerei, 1919. Poster; 14 1/2 x 9 1/4; thin, beige stock, printed and illustrated in red and black; small creases to corners; intersecting crease lines with small splits to edges and a tiny puncture at intersection; overall in about very good condition.

An unrecorded poster, advertising the First Division Circus performances at Montabaur, it depicted a sinister-looking clown with a smiling pig by his side. If history is to be believed, there has been a peculiar symbiosis between armed forces and circuses consistently through the ages. During WWI, with soldiers facing danger and/or monotony on a daily basis, some apparently held hidden circus talent and would entertain their comrades with full-blown mini-circuses. The culmination of it all would be the American First Division Circus performances during the Occupation of 1919. For two days, the entire town of Montabaur, outside of Coblenz, would be transformed into a circus extravaganza with a street parade with elephants, horses, and floats, three-ring acts, and side-shows. It would also be remembered for a remarkable performance by the First Engineers, who managed to construct a military pontoon bridge across the Rhine in the record time of forty-one minutes and eight seconds.

12. [Games] *Anonymous* Puzzle Blocks Set

\$320.00



S. l.: s. n., n. d. (ca 1860). A complete set; wooden box and embossed black and gray paper; sliding wooden lid with laid-on, hand-colored, lithographed illustration; 6 cubes with hand-colored, lithographed sides; 5 hand-colored, lithographed, subtitled, loose sheets + the lid cover illustrating the 6 puzzles; box - 5 3/4 x 4 x 2, cubes - 1 3/4 x 1 3/4 x 1 3/4, sheets - 5 x 3 1/2; paper on box with some rubbing to edges and small chips; lid illustration with ripples and small loss of paper to edges; 2 of the sheets trimmed unevenly, most probably while originally manufactured, in order to fit the sheets in the box - resulting in obscured subtitles; in good condition.

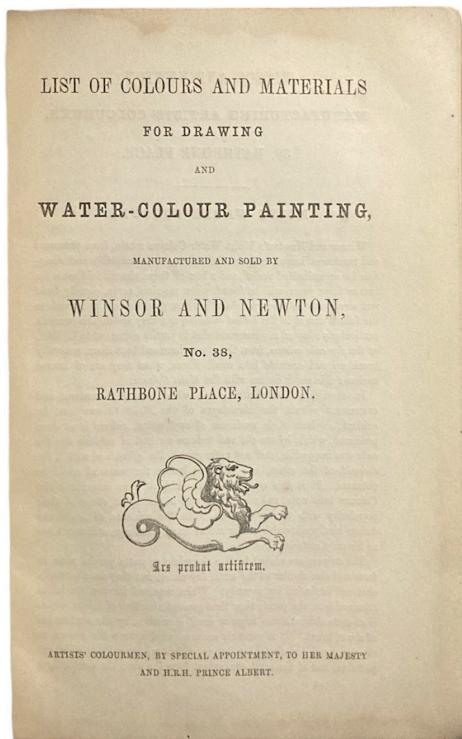
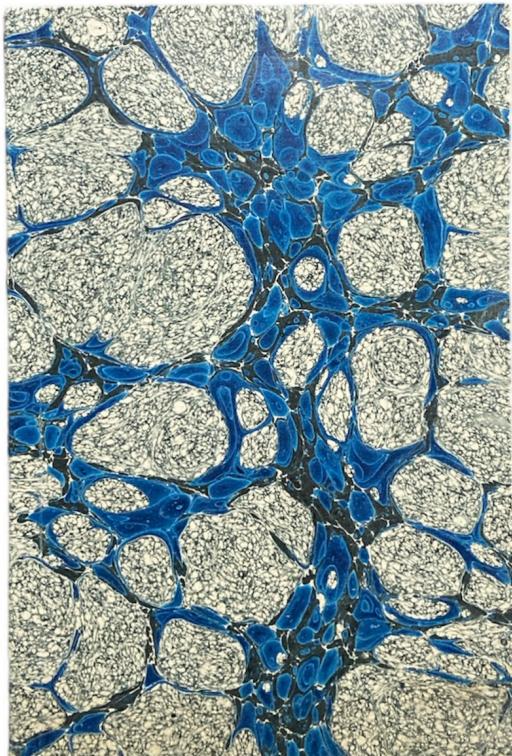
A beautiful, mid-19th-century, puzzle game, it illustrated Bible scenes, including the Conquest of Jerusalem by Nebucadnezar [sic], the Farewell Taken by David from Jonathan, and James' Blessing of His Sons.

13. [Trade Catalog] *Winsor and Newton List of Colours and Materials for Drawing and Water-colour Painting, Manufactured and Sold by Winsor and Newton, No. 38, Rathbone Place, London*

\$350.00

London: By the authors, n. d. (ca 1855). Trade catalog; 7 1/4 x 4 3/4; pp. [2], 3-32; rebound in marbled wraps, with the original back wrap preserved; illustrated with numerous woodcuts; a few minor smudges to margins; text block a bit wobbly; rear endpaper with loss of paper to bottom margin; in good to very good condition.

A beautiful trade catalog of art supplies, it was issued in the mid-19th century by Winsor and Newton - manufacturers of a wide range of high-quality, fine-art products. Founded in 1832 by chemist William Winsor and artist Henry Newton, the company would develop the first moist watercolors, utilizing the moisture-retaining properties of glycerin. Gaining rapid and well-deserved popularity would lead to their appointment as "Artists' Colourmen to Queen Victoria" in 1841. The company would subsequently pioneer and patent several other art supplies, including glass syringes to replace bladders as oil color containers and the first screw cap mechanism for a collapsible metal tube. Two engravings at the beginning of the catalog represented the medal they would win at the Great Exhibition at the Crystal Palace in 1851 - the only prize to be awarded for artists' colors. The company would also make and retail brushes, drawing papers, sketching portfolios, etc. Many of these products, including paints in collapsible tubes, watercolors in lavish mahogany boxes, fine sable brushes, and so on, were pictured and described with properties and prices in the current catalog.



14. [Criminals] *Anonymous Real-photo Postcard of Louis W. Chobar - Prisoner, Saxophonist, Librarian (Signed)*

\$55.00

S. l.: s. n., n. d. (ca 1930). Real-photo postcard; card - 5 1/2 x 3 1/4, oval image - approx. 3 3/4 x 2 1/4; minor wear to corners; a few very light spots to margins; ink on signature slightly smudged; very good condition.

Louis W. Chobar, aka Lee Vaugh (1896 - ?), was sentenced to life in prison and became inmate #7280 at the Nebraska State Penitentiary, after murdering a farmer for raping his wife in 1917, although there might have been rumors the latter had had a consensual affair with the man. He would eventually become a prison librarian, mail room manager, soloist in the prison band with a saxophone he had bought with his saved, full-year prison wages and had taught himself to play, and theater director - all the accomplishments with the constant encouragement of Warden William T. Fenton (1872 - 1939) - prison reformer and proponent of improvements to the inmates' quality of life. Fenton established a greenhouse, sports teams, the above-mentioned band, etc. and under his leadership, it was said the prison was one of the best-managed penitentiaries in the entire United States. Chobar's life sentence was eventually commuted to 25 years and he was released in 1935.

