

# The Twisted Mind of a Philatelist

Collecting *anything* involves a slight degree of obsessive-compulsive behavior and often goes well into the realm of mental illness. Collecting stamps and covers? Well, let's just say there's no cure.

This exhibit represents a lifetime of collecting.

D.O.A. / C.O.D.

"One corpse" cost \$30 for shipping in 1864

Except against loss occasioned by the public enemy.  
For the Company,  
INSURANCE, \$

**Adams Express Company**  
GREAT EASTERN, WESTERN AND SOUTHERN  
EXPRESS FORWARDERS.

No. 1. BALTIMORE, MD. *Dec 16<sup>th</sup>* 1864

RECEIVED OF *One Corpse* Value \_\_\_\_\_

Marked *W D Mather Cape C D Burns*  
*Fairhaven Rutland*

Which it is mutually agreed is to be forwarded to our Agency nearest or most convenient to destination only, and there delivered to other parties to complete the transportation.

It is part of the consideration of this contract, and it is agreed, that the said Express Company ARE FORWARDERS ONLY, and are not to be held liable or responsible for any loss or damage to said property while being conveyed by the CARRIERS to whom the same may be by said Express Company entrusted, or arising from the dangers of Railroads, Ocean or River Navigation, Steam, Fire in Stores, Depots, or in Transit, Leakage, Breakage, or from any cause whatever, unless, in every case, the same be proved to have occurred from the fraud or gross negligence of said Express Company, or their servants; nor in any event shall the holder hereof demand beyond the sum of FIFTY DOLLARS, at which the article forwarded is hereby valued, unless otherwise herein expressed, or unless specially insured by them, and so specified in this receipt, which insurance shall constitute the limit of the liability of the Adams Express Company. And if the same is entrusted or delivered to any other Express Company, or Agent, (which said Adams Express Company are hereby authorized to do,) such Company or person so selected shall be regarded exclusively as the agent of the shipper or owner, and, as such, alone liable, and the Adams Express Company shall not be in any event responsible for the negligence or non-performance of any such Company or person; nor in any event shall said Express Company be liable for any loss or damage unless the claim therefor shall be presented to them, in writing, at this office, within thirty days after this date, in a statement to which this receipt shall be annexed. All articles of GLASS, or contained in Glass, or any of a fragile nature, will be taken at Shipper's risk only, and the shipper agrees that the Company shall not be held responsible for any injury by breakage or otherwise, nor for damage to goods not properly packed and secured for transportation. It is further agreed that the said Company shall not in any event be liable for any loss, damage or detention caused by the acts of God, Civil or Military Authority, or by Rebellion, Piracy, Insurrection, or Riot, or the dangers incident to a time of war.

For the Company,  
FREIGHT, *30<sup>00</sup>* *Higgins* *Croft*

DEC 16 1864

# Donner Party for Dinner

Addressed to James F. Reed, famous member of the Donner Party

*uneaten*



James F. Reed and his wife, Margaret



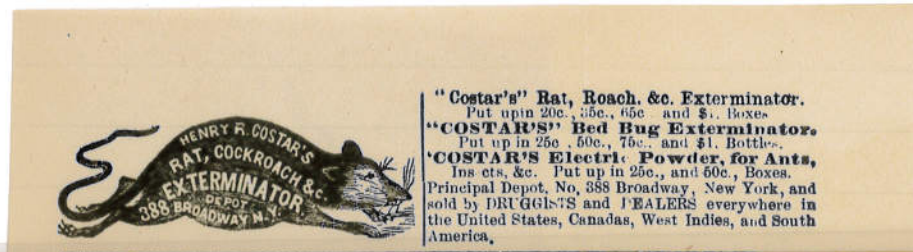
# Homo Desmondus

"Order of the Vampires" New York City, October 1892  
and Transylvania, birthplace of Vlad Tepes (Dracula)



# Rattus Norvegicus

## Mother and her twins





# Safe Sex

Advertisement for condoms in 1855 with free sample!

## TO THE PUBLIC.

GENTLEMEN:

I keep a Fancy and Variety Store at No. 215 Chesnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa., and have kept store in that Street ever since the year 1830. I have sold the article I am about to describe in the city of Philadelphia during the whole of that time; as to the nature of the article, they are CUNDUMS, or Preventatives; they are used for a private purpose, but when having intercourse with the opposite sex. The object in using as follows: Single young men use them to prevent themselves from being diseased when having intercourse with women of a public character, but where I sell one for the above purpose, I sell a hundred for domestic use for the husband to use with his wife. The object for there use in domestic way is various. The first and most important object is, to save the lives of thousands of wives, the husbands of whom would not do much all alike, as regards to the opposite sexes to have intercourse with the other, it would be almost impossible to avoid the above results, without the use of something as a preventative, and Physicians recommend the above named articles very highly in such cases as just mentioned. They are also used in cases where child birth is not quite so severely stated, but where the wife has children so fast and so many of them, it tiresly breaks up and impairs her constitution, and disables her from duty better to a smaller number. Indeed, many a man is sorely grieved to see the idol of his heart and companion, for life, in such a state.

PHILADELPHIA, 1855.

SIR,—I have herein enclosed you a specimen of an article which I have been selling in Philadelphia ever since the year 1830. I have lately adopted the plan of sending specimens in this way to different persons engaged for the Public, as you are, and I have received orders for the article and remittances from the most of those I have sent to.

I keep a Fancy and Variety Store at 215 Chesnut Street, Philada. Pa. and have kept store in that street ever since the year 1830, and have sold this article during the whole of that time; and also, for twelve years prior to that period, in the city of Baltimore, Maryland.

I sell them at 3 dollars per dozen, or 5 dollars for two dozen at my store. Now, to make it an object to you, I put them to my agents at \$1½ per doz. and you will of course get 3 dollars per dozen, or 5 dollars for two dozen, when you sell any of them. You will remit me \$1½ for each dozen that you order, the money accompanying each order. The article can easily be sent by mail—I have sent as many as twelve dozen in one package by mail, and they went safe. Sometimes we send them by Adams' Express.

I do not sell less than a dozen,—but as you cannot well send me half a dollar by mail or letter, so you had better remit me a two dollar note, or two gold dollars, and I will send you 16 of them—and that will be the smallest order I will fill.

I have no doubt that in your immediate neighbourhood there are hundreds of families that would be highly delighted and grateful to get this article from you for domestic use. If you would wish to keep some of them on hand to sell in smaller quantities than a dozen, to say, one, two, three, or four single ones at a time, or anything like that, you can freely charge fifty cents apiece for them, for the customer could do no better.

It will be both to your and my interest to distribute the enclosed bills—that is, the ones that are done up by themselves,—to any person you may think proper, or who you might have reason to think might become a purchaser; for if given to persons who do not wish to purchase it might prevent you and me from getting paid for our trouble. And I think you had better keep one of the large or descriptive hand-bills yourself, so that you could give the description, if in case your other large or descriptive bills should have been given out. It would also be best to show the sample of the article alluded to in this description to such persons who might become purchasers, to let them see what the article is like.

This hand-bill is especially intended for you to keep yourself—and the terms it holds out, are between you and me, and not to be divulged or communicated to others, whom our terms do not concern.

If you send at any time an order to me, send me your full and complete direction, so that there will be no danger of my communication or letter not reaching you.

Should you meet with any success in receiving orders by giving those hand-bills out, you can let me know if you want any more of those hand-bills, and how many.

Yours, respectfully,

MR. DE YOUNG,

No. 215 Chesnut Street, above Seventh St. north side,  
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

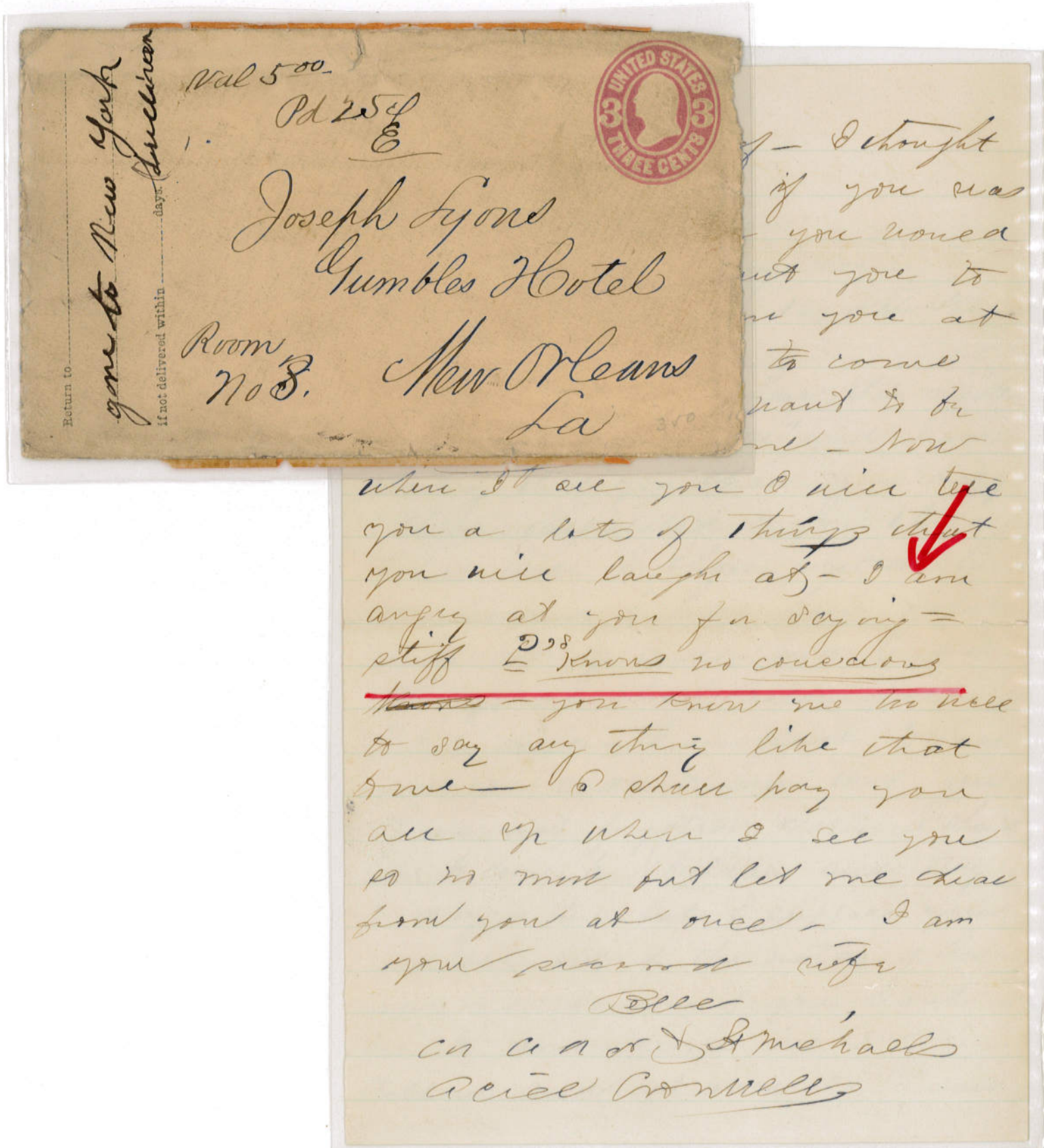
Thomas. R. Kingsbury  
Bradford  
Penobscot  
Maine





# Unsafe Sex

Letter from a Civil War prostitute to her "friend"  
signed "Your second wife" and admonishing him  
for telling her "stiff P's knows no conscious"



# Really Unsafe Sex

Masonic Lodge special notice for a meeting to expel a member  
"for violating the chastity of a [Member's] daughter"



CHESTER LODGE No. 72, F. & A. M. }  
MASONIC HALL, CHESTER, ILLINOIS, }  
May 14, A. L. 5855, A. D. 1855. }

*To the Worshipful Master, War-  
dens and Brethren of Kaskaskia  
Lodge No. 86---*

BRETHREN:

*At a Special Commu-  
nication of Chester Lodge No. 72, F. & A.  
M., held at their Hall in Chester, Illinois, on  
Saturday Evening May 12th A. L. 5855, A. D.  
1855, Bro William A. Gordon was Expelled  
from all the Rights, Benefits and Privileges of Ma-  
sonry, for gross Un-Masonic Conduct.*

*Violating the Chastity of a M<sup>r</sup> Daughter  
wringing a M<sup>r</sup> lying  
Please take due notice thereof and govern  
yourselves accordingly.*

FRATERNALLY, &c.,

*L. L. Hamilton. Secretary.*



*Sec Kaskaskia Lodge No 86  
Kaskaskia  
Ill.*



# A Potential Result of Unsafe Sex

Copopa, Ohio, postmaster-name duplex

R. I. Bastard Jr.





“Weather’s Fine. Wish You Were Here.”

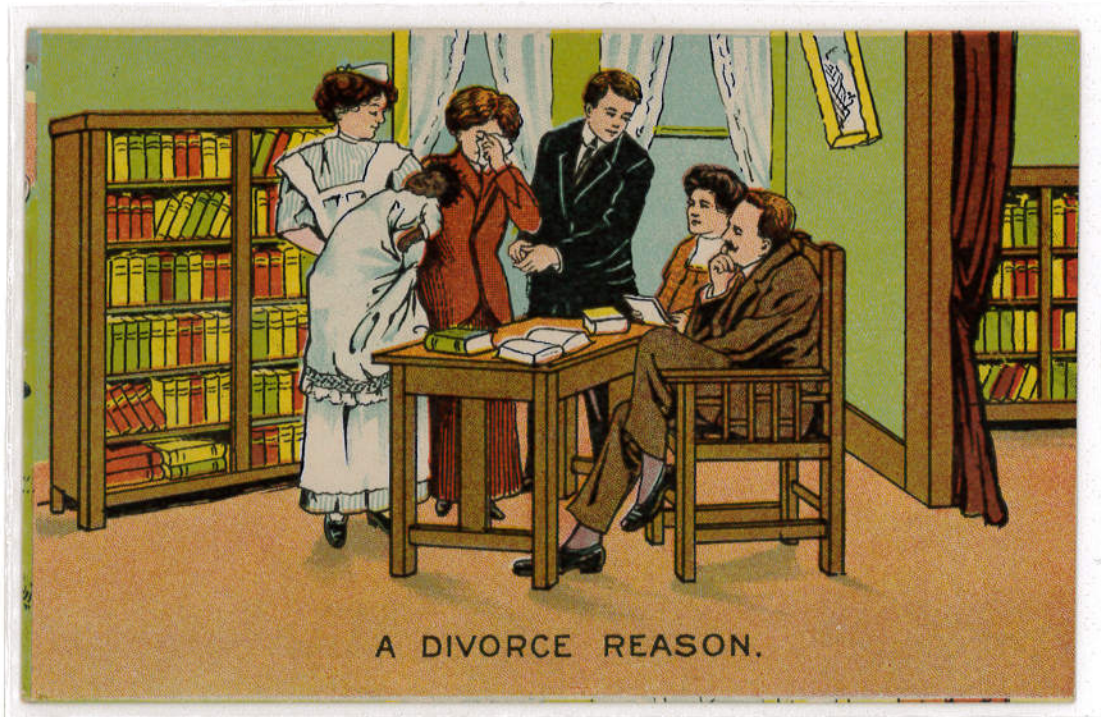
Postcards from China in 1904 showing tourist attractions:

An opium den and beheading



# My Grounds for Divorce Wasn't This Interesting

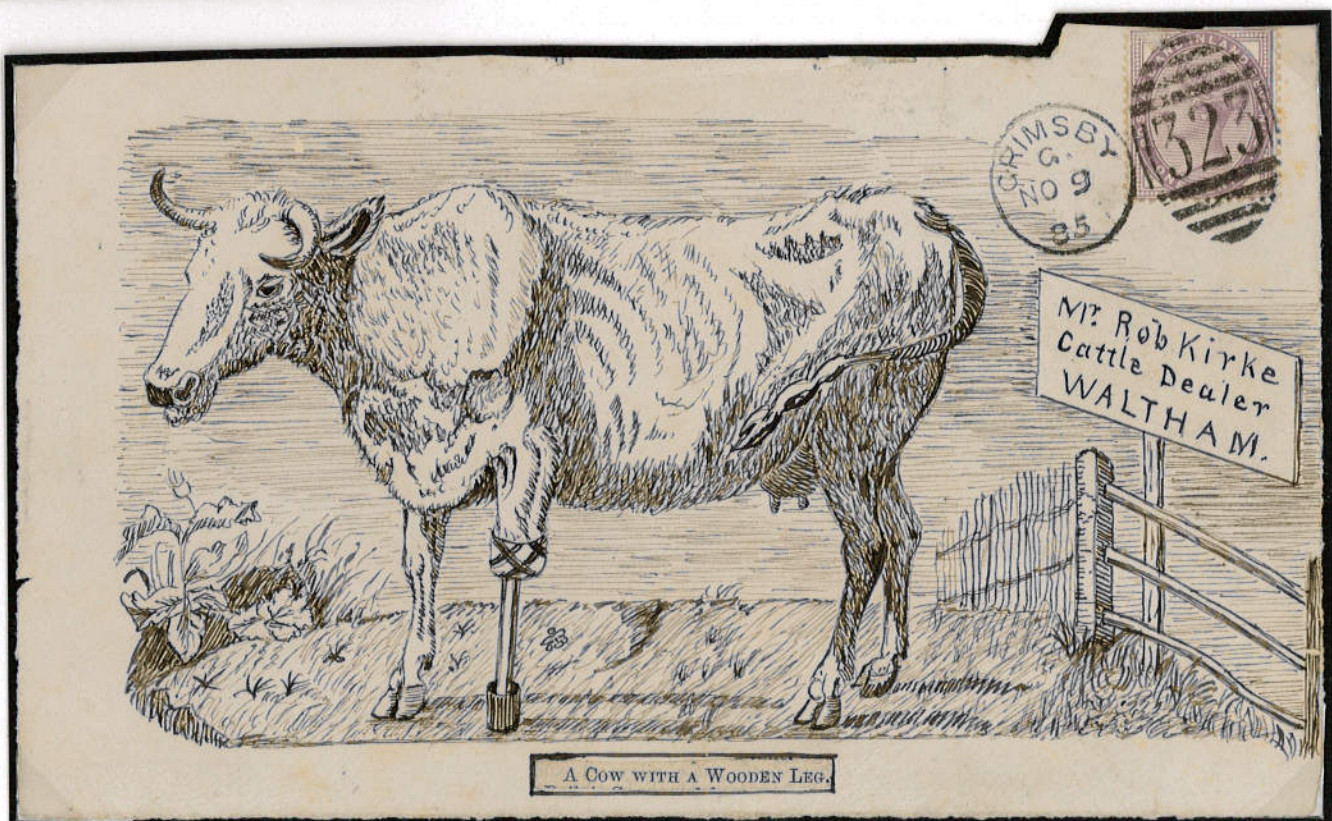
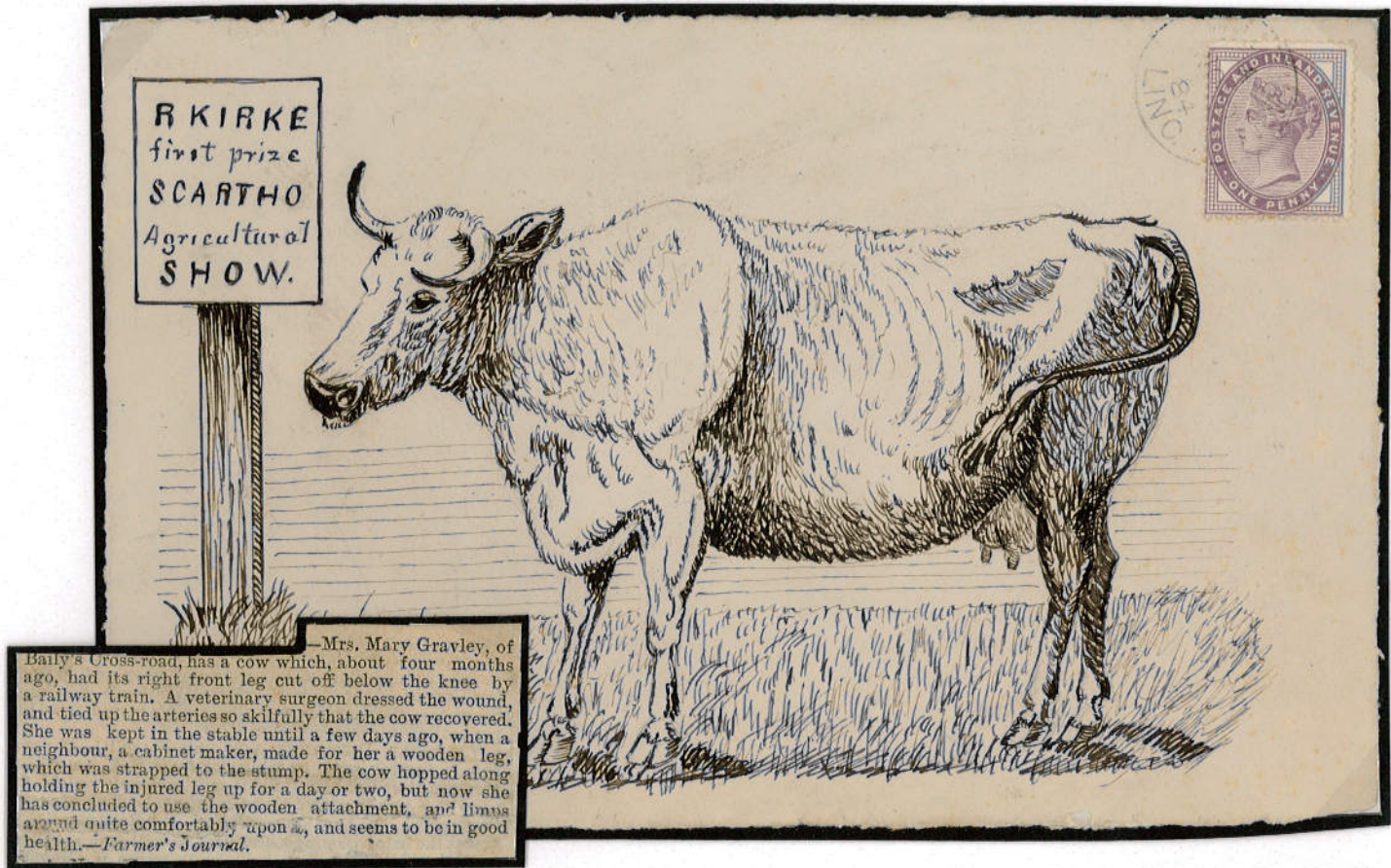
Early 20th Century advertising card for Pond's Bitters





# A New Leg and She's as Good as Moo

Victorian era hand-illustrated covers to a cattle dealer





# It's Not Stealing if You're the Postmaster

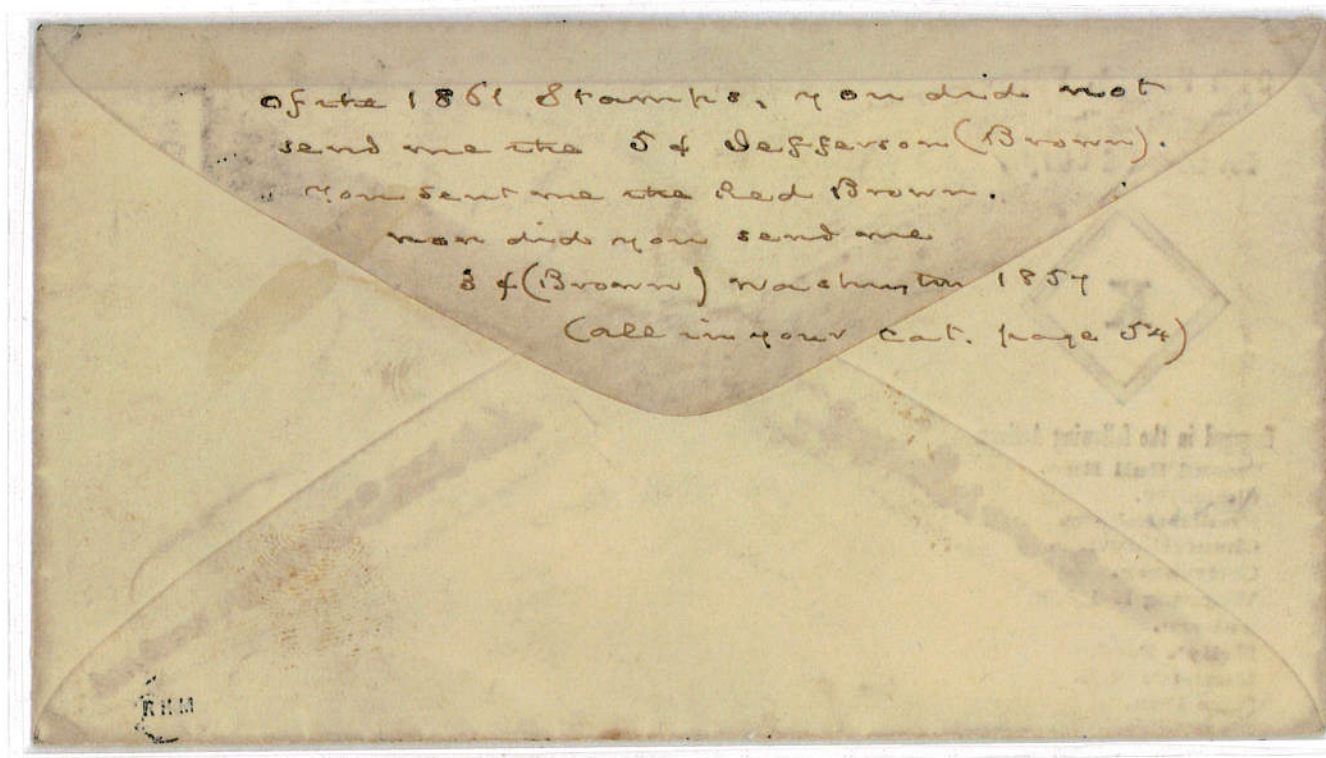
Illegal use of revenue stamps to pay registration fee  
by the postmaster of Stony Point, Maine, in 1888





# New Issue Service in 1864

Patriotic cover from a stamp collector to dealer A. C. Kline  
requesting "5¢ Jefferson (Brown)" instead of Red Brown  
(see note on back)



# It Helps to Have Friends in High Places

## White House Chief of Staff Karl Rove Mails in Bids

*K. ROVE*  
THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON, DC 20502

17 JUN 2006

U.S. POSTAGE 8<sup>c</sup>



*Robert A. Siegel Auctions*  
*60 E. 56<sup>th</sup> Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor*  
*NY, NY 10022*

10022+3204 COBB





# Postage Due from The National Postal Museum

And you wonder why the Postal Service is in the red?

2004

Smithsonian  
Philatelic  
Achievement  
Award

National Postal Museum  
2 Massachusetts Avenue NE  
Washington, DC 20560-0570



*Mr. Scott. Lusk*

#### Return to Sender

##### Additional 12¢ Required for Nonmachinable Surcharge

Items 1 oz. or less with any of the following cannot be processed on Postal Service sorting machines:

- a. Square letters.
- b. Height exceeds 6-1/8 inches, or length exceeds 11-1/2 inches, or thickness exceeds 1/4 inch.
- c. Length (dimension parallel to the address) divided by height is less than 1.3 or more than 2.5.
- d. Clasps, strings, buttons, or similar closure devices.
- e. Too rigid or contains items that cause uneven thickness.
- f. Address is parallel to the shorter dimension.

► Affix 12¢ additional postage, remove this label, and remail.

Label 100, July 2002

32/9



# To Be Sold When I'm Dead

## Ameripex Black-Omitted Souvenir Sheet – Unique on Cover!!!

SCOTT R. TREPEL  
60 E. 56TH ST. 4TH FL  
NEW YORK, NY 10022



ANDREW KUPERKMIT  
143 WOODBRIDGE AVE.  
METUCHEN, NJ 08840

7/7

