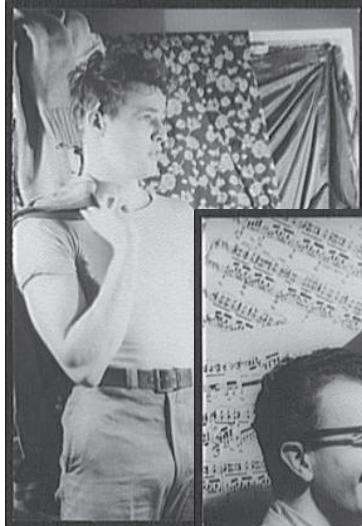


America's Archives

Stories of our country's historic documents—and how things that may have once seemed rather ordinary can turn out to be national treasures. Sometimes such documents are first found in private hands—perhaps in an attic or old album. On other occasions, they immediately become artifacts of history the minute they were created.

Wonderful Images From The Carl Van Vechten Photographs Collection At The Library of Congress

This wonderful collection consists of 1,395 photographs taken by American photographer Carl Van Vechten (1880-1964) between 1932 and 1964. The bulk of the collection consists of portrait photographs of celebrities, including many figures from the Harlem Renaissance. A much smaller portion of the collection is an assortment of American landscapes.



F. Scott Fitzgerald
June 4, 1934



Marlon Brando
Dec. 27, 1948



Fred Schmitt's **PERSPECTIVE**

(Continued...)

What this means, of course, is that virtually any collector with some knowledge of history can form very intriguing—and even important—collections of Americana that relate to his or her particular interest. Lots of wonderful historic paper is still waiting out there to be acquired and assembled into a cohesive subject or theme.

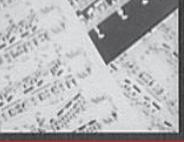
For instance, on the front page we show a carte de visite of George Armstrong Custer and an envelope (cover) which relates to one of the officers who died with the famous youthful general at the Battle of the Little Big Horn on June 25, 1876. Thousands of people are seriously interested in both the Custer story and the battle. In fact, there is even an organization called Little Big Horn Associates that has over 1,000 members devoted to the study of this event.

The two items illustrated were recently sold on the eBay auction website for less than \$50 each. (a very low price for the autographed carte de visite, by the way.) Both of them could form the basis for a collection on the Custer/Big Horn subject.

We are constantly encountering such historic documents and postal history in our quest to buy all kinds of paper Americana. This means that countless historic documents—usually stored in family attics and such—are still waiting to be discovered, recorded, and placed into the serious collections of buffs, historians and collectors throughout the world.



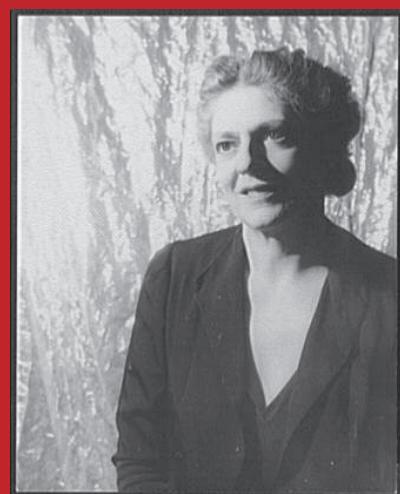
Billie Holiday
March 23, 1949



Dave Brubeck
Oct. 8, 1954



James Stewart
Oct. 15, 1934



Ethel Barrymore
Dec. 12, 1937



Gene Tunney
April 25, 1934