

# MAX RAMBOD AUCTION

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Tuesday, June 29th, 2004



*Washington's Last Letter*

## Washington's Last Letter Extant - Written Only Six Days Before His Death

### 3 WASHINGTON, GEORGE

First President of the United States. Letter Signed, written only Six days before his death, thorough research in American Book Price Current revealed that in the last 30 years there is no record of any Washington letter selling at any auction worldwide dated after this letter.

Mt. Vernon, December 8, 1799, 2 pages. Washington's retained draft of a letter to the President and Directors of the Potomac Company, responding to a letter signed by James Keith, asking Washington to attend a stockholders' meeting. In this letter, Washington discusses matters relating to the purchase of stock in the Potomac Company by the State of Maryland, and also expresses his pleasure that the means for completing navigation of the river can be obtained.

In full: *"I have received your letter of this date, inform. me of the Resolutions of the Legislature of Maryland to take 130 shares in the Augmented Capital of the Potomac company, and enclosing a calculation Shewing the advantages to be derived from drawing the five per cent stock from the Treasury of Maryland before the 5 of January. - I am very much pleased to learn that the means for completing the important work of the Navigation of the River may be obtained; - and I should, with pleasure, attend the meeting of Tuesday, did not an expectation of Company at that time, and other circumstances, make it inconvenient for me to leave home, -and did I not also believe that my proxy to vote on the occasion (which will be given to Mr. Keith, the President) would answer every purpose that could be affected by my personal attendance, as I am persuaded that can be but one object in view with the Stockholders, which is to take such measures as will ensure the completion of the work with certainty and expedition equally to the sense of the Stock holders as (of) this meeting in Augt. last. I have the honor to be with great respect Gents. Yr Mo. ob. st." Signed "Go. Washington."*

The letter is overall in very good condition. Washington's signature is moderately dark. Washington founded the Potomac Company after the Revolution with the idea of creating a water route to the West through Virginia by connecting the Potomac with the Ohio River. Washington died before another week had ended, on December 14, and in his will he gave his stocks in the Potomac Company to create a National University.

At 2:00 am on December 14th Washington awoke with severe chills and trouble breathing and speaking. Three doctors attended to him, they diagnosed his condition as inflammatory quinsy. Washington was then bled four times, the stadard practice of the time. He was unable to swallow a concoction of molasses and vinegar, however he was able to take a little calomel and tartar emetic. The physicians raised blisters on his throat and lower limbs but nothing was effective. Finally at 10:00 pm, Washington told the doctors to give up and told Tobias Lear, his aid, "I am just going. Have me decently buried and do not let my body be put into a vault in less than two days after I am dead. Do you understand me?" Lear replied, "Yes Sir" and then Washington said his last words "Tis well" and dies taking his own pulse.

His body was then placed in a mahogany coffin with the inscription *Surge Ad Judicium* and *Gloria Deo*. This letter is one of his last letters, as it is dated 6 days before his death and our research determined that there was absolutely no letters dated after this one having been sold at auction for the last 30 years, we could not find one even beyond 30 years, however ABPC data gives us a through reserch of every Washington letter for the past 3 decades. It appears that this is the last letter of America's first President still in private hands.

Inventory No. 11195

\$ 8,000-18,000



Mount Vernon Dec 8 1797

Gentle

I have received your letter of this date, informing me of the Resolutions of the Legislature of Maryland to take 130 Shares in the Augmented Capital of the Potomac Company, and to

...the means for <sup>the</sup> improvement of the River may be obtained, please attend the meeting of the Board of Company at ~~Stam~~ <sup>Stam</sup>, make it inconve- nient to attend at Home;— and did not proxy to vote on the occasion to Mr. Smith, the President of the Board, that could be effected by me. I am persuaded these con- siderations will be viewed with the Stockholders

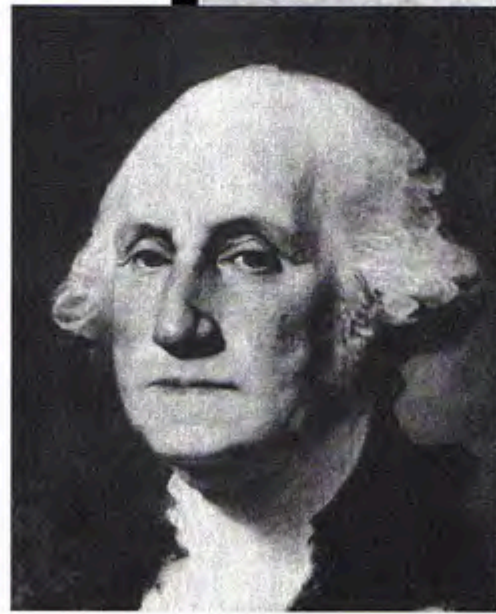
will measure as will ensure the completion of the work with certainty and expedition, equally to the benefit of the Stockholders as of the country in Aug. 1798 }  
I have the honor to be  
with great respect  
Gentle

Yr. mo. ob. Servt

J. M. Smith

The Secretary & Treasurer of the Potomac Co.  
Dec 8 1797

The President & Directors of the Potomac Co.





## JFK Cigar Box with Provenance

### 58 KENNEDY, JOHN

35th U.S. President. Custom walnut cigar box engraved "President Kennedy," across the cover, 13 x 2½ x 2 in., made for President-elect Kennedy. Some scuffing at corners and clasp is missing. Accompanied by a notebook with an original letter from K. Galli, Managing Director of Alhambra Industries, Inc. in Manila, Philippines, June 8 1977, to Mr. Del Barto in Louisiana. Mr. Galli states that *"This box for sure was made in our factory and contained one jumbo cigar also manufactured in our company....If my memory serves me correctly, we had an order of between 10 to 20 such boxes before the inauguration...for President-Elect Kennedy...."* Together with 17 photocopies from the Kennedy Library of letters and documents regarding cigars sent to President Kennedy by the President and Ambassador of the Philippines. Also a letter from Philippines manufacturer stating that this box was an original made by their factory at the time and that some were sent to Kennedy. Also copies of letters from the white house thanking the Philippines for the cigars sent to Kennedy. At Sotheby's Jackie Onassis Sale, a JFK cigar box, sold for \$575,000. A record for any cigar box.

Inventory No. 11202

\$ 3500-7500



# Louis Pasteur Writes in His Hand to help a Destitute Mother of Seven Get Anti- Rabies Treatment for one of her Children at The Pasteur Institute

394 PASTEUR, LOUIS

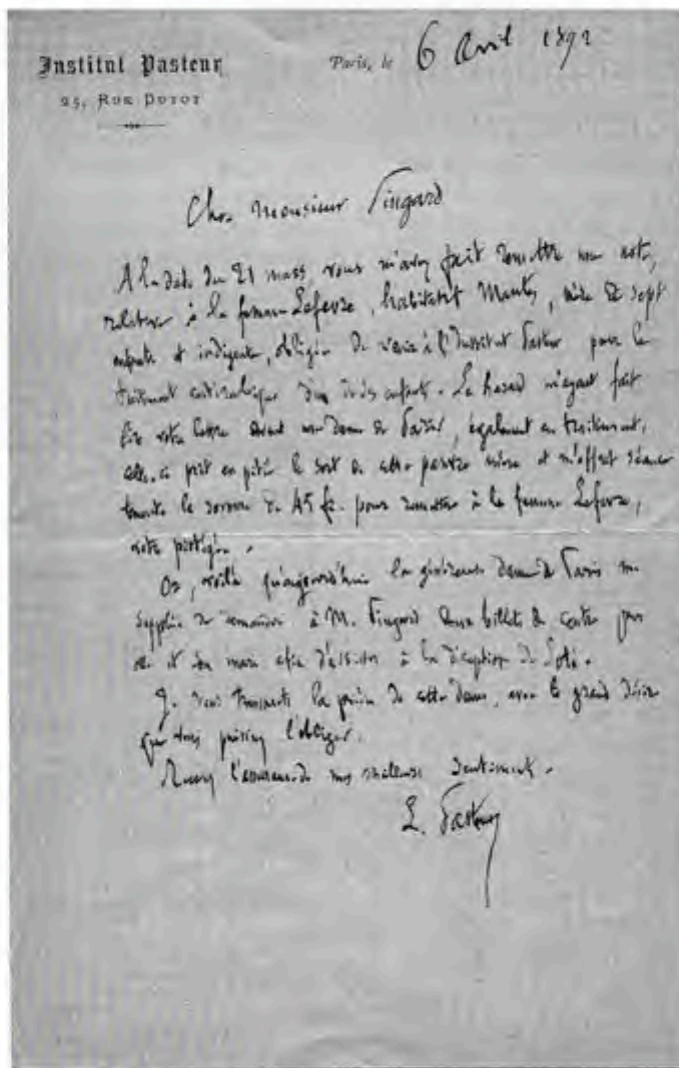
World-renowned French chemist and biologist, who founded the science of microbiology, proved the germ theory of disease, invented the process of pasteurization, and developed vaccines for several diseases, including rabies.

Handwritten Autograph Letter Signed, in French, on "Institut Pasteur" stationery, Paris, April 6, 1892. Pasteur writes in his hand to a Monsieur Pingard. "On March 21, you sent me a note concerning the Lefevre woman, a Nantes resident, a destitute mother of seven children, forced to come to the Pasteur Institute so one of her children could receive the anti-rabies treatment. Fate had me read your letter in front of a lady from Paris also there for the same treatment. This lady took pity on the poor mother and immediately offered me 45 FR. to give to the Lefevre woman, your protégé. Now this generous woman from Paris begs me to ask Mr Pingard for a pair of tickets so that she and her husband can attend the Loti reception. I am transmitting her request with the fervent hope that you will be able to accede to it. Please be assured of my most distinguished regards." Signed, "L. Pasteur "

The well known story of Pasteur's first trial on a human of his rabies vaccine occurred in 1885, when a young boy and his mother arrived at Pasteur's laboratory. The boy had been bitten badly by a rabid dog. Pasteur treated him with his new method of vaccination, and after the ten day therapy, the boy recovered and remained healthy. In 1888, Pasteur founded an institute in Paris for the treatment of rabies which became the Institut Pasteur with Pasteur serving as director until he died. This is an exceptional letter in every way. Letters of Pasteur discussing rabies are the most desirable especially written at an early phase in the life of Pasteur Institute.

Inventory No. 11212

\$ 4000-6000





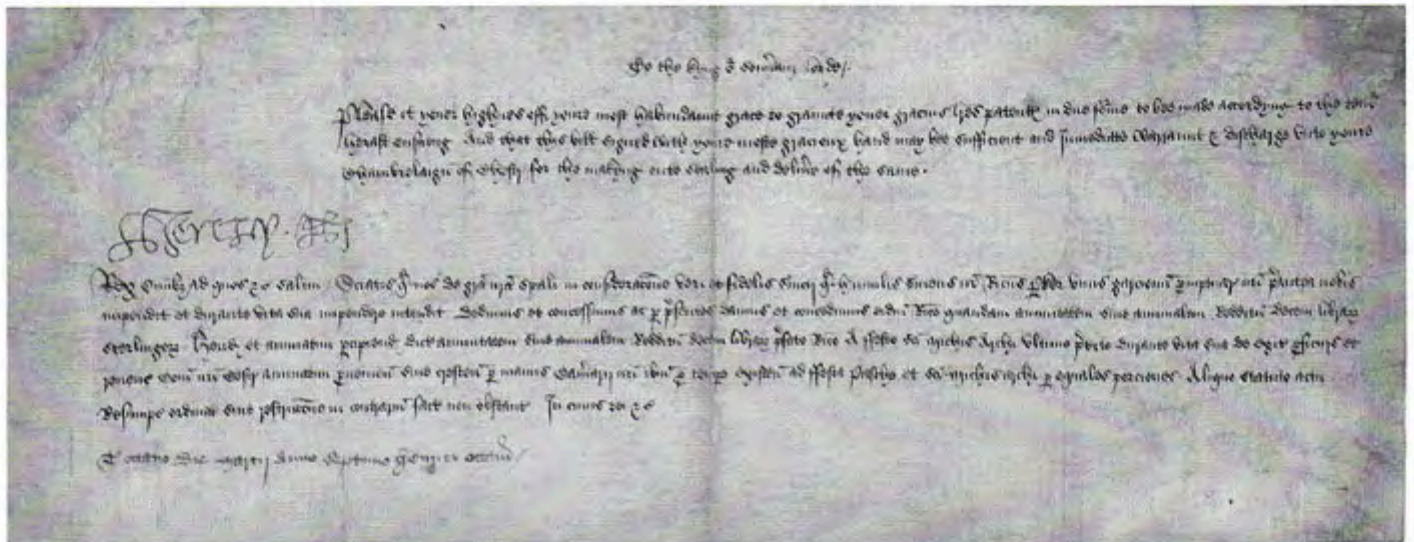
# King Henry VIII Signed Document

782 HENRY VIII, KING

King of England. Second son of Henry VII and Elizabeth of York of Tudor. Signed document by Henry VIII, "Henry R", in Latin, measures 14" X 5.5" The vellum document, is a letters patent for an annuity, it is written in brown ink in English and Latin, dated March 8th 1516. Written beneath a petition (in English) asking the King to grant Letters Patent for the chamberlain of Chester to pay an annuity of ten pounds sterling to Richard Parker, formerly one of the servants in the royal buttery "Please it youre highness off youre most habundant grace to graunte youre gracious l(ett)ers patents in due forme to bee made according to the ten(o)r hereaft(er) ensuing... this bill signed with your most gracious hand" Small hole in the blank margin and slight soiling. Otherwise in very good condition.

Inventory No. 11338

\$ 18000-25000







Atomic Bomb Blueprint

