

Kansas Memory



Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Dickerman - Foote

Section 11, Pages 301 - 330

A series of research correspondence from the Robert Taft collection relating to frontier artists. Robert Taft (1894-1955) was a professor of chemistry and author on the subjects of photography and art. The artists included here are Sumner Dickerman, E. Didier, Maynard Dixon, William H. Dougal, William Herbert Dunton, John Durkin, Thomas Eakins, Lawrence C. Earl, Thomas Martin Easterly, Seth Eastman, Elk Eber, Frederick von Egloffstein, Henry A. Elkins, Henry W. Elliott, George H. Ellsbury, W. A. Emory, Henry F. Farny, Father Nicholas Point, Harry Fenn, and Mary Hallock Foote.

Date: 1930-1955

Callnumber: Robert Taft Coll. #172, Box 21

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 308632

Item Identifier: 308632

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THE LAST SCENE OF THE LAST ACT OF THE SIOUX WAR—DRAWN BY H. F. FARNY.

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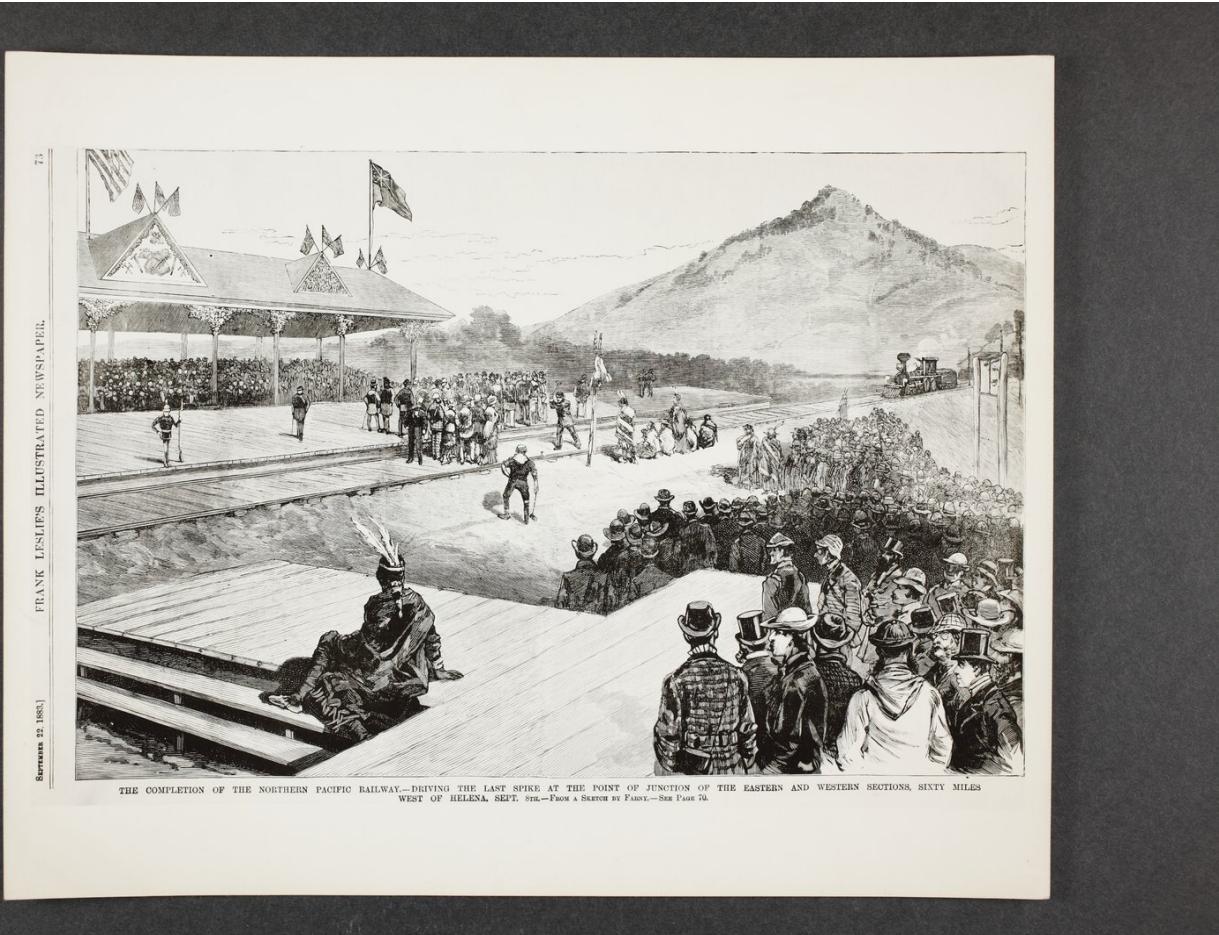


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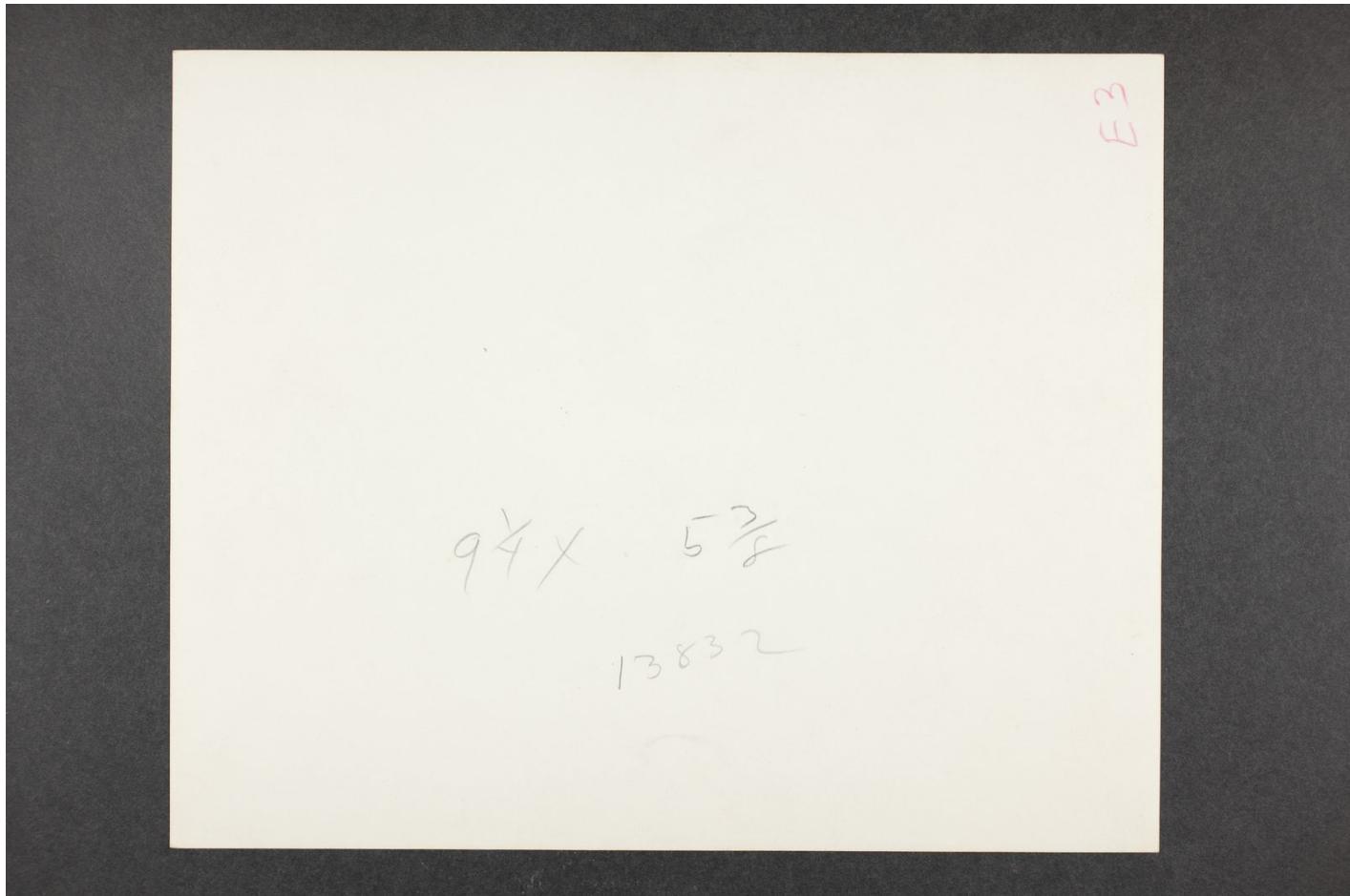


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TOLLERS OF THE PLAINS—Drawn by E. H. Taft.—[See Post 282.]

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"THE PRISONER"—; FROM THE WATER-COLOR PAINTING BY H. F. FARNY.—[SEE PAGE 17.]

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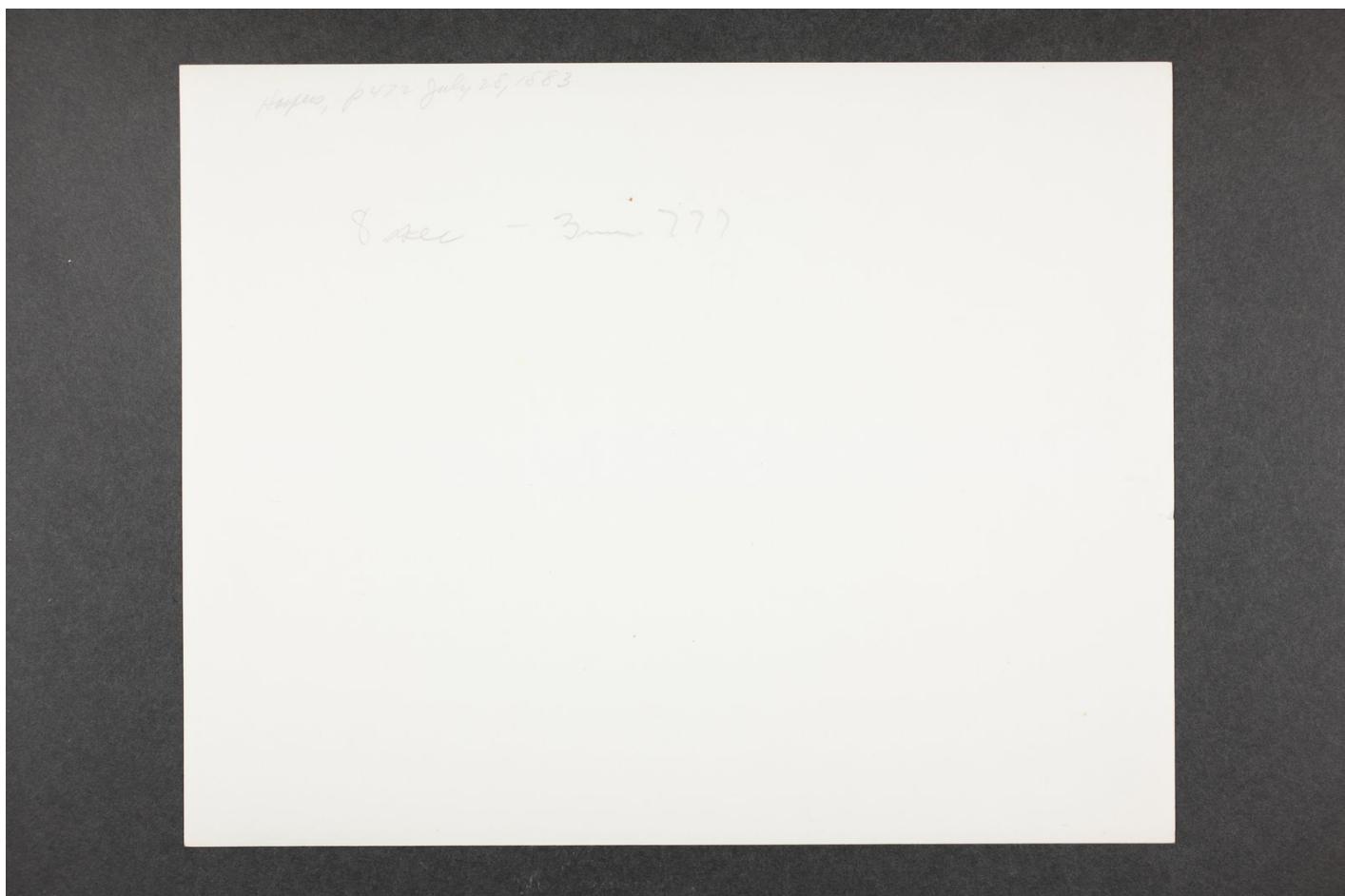
ILLATION DAY AT STANDING ROCK AGENCY. Drawn by H. F. Fasey. (See Page 17a.)

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GREAT FALLS OF THE MISSOURI.

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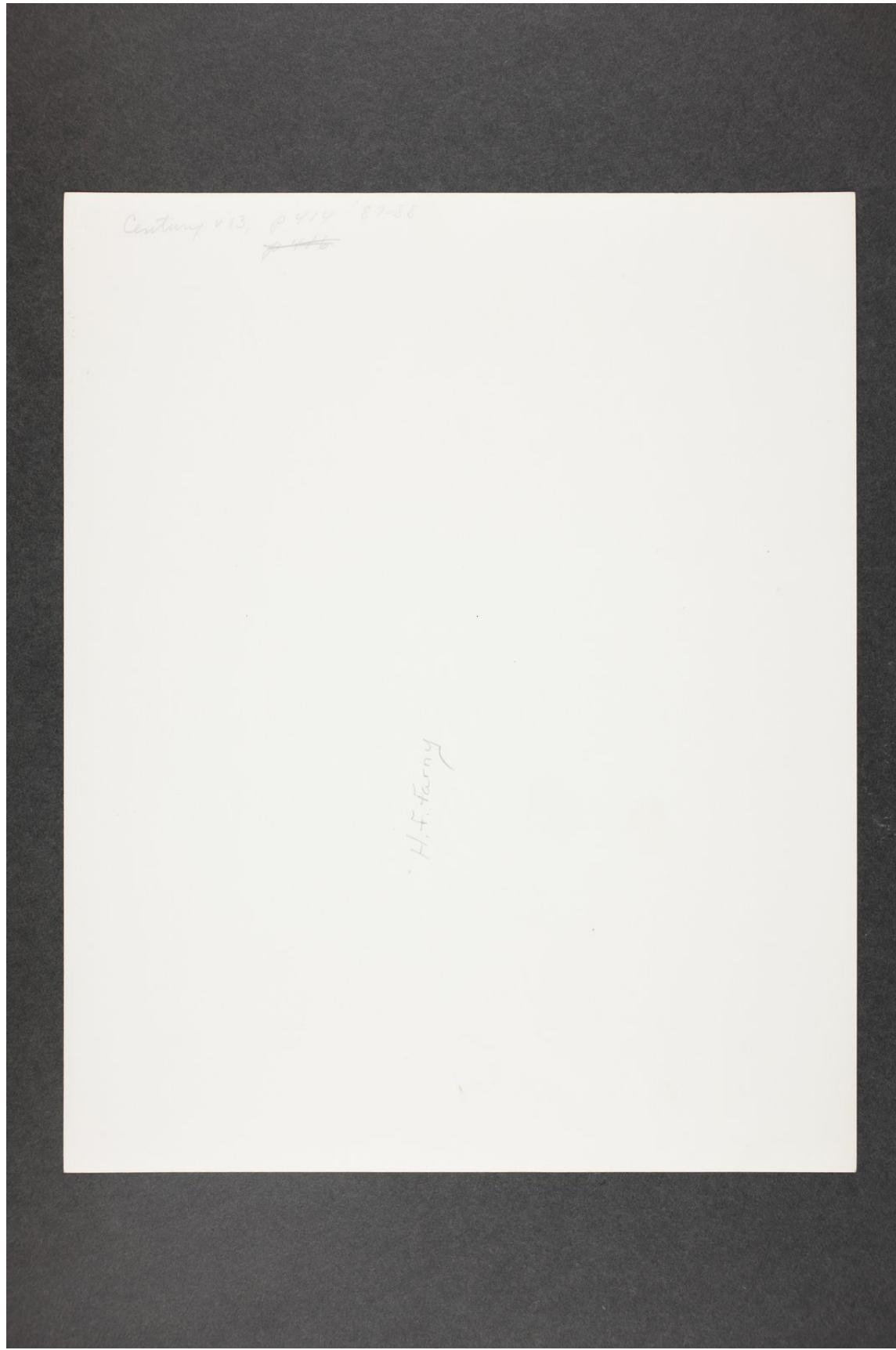
RUINS OF FORT BENTON.

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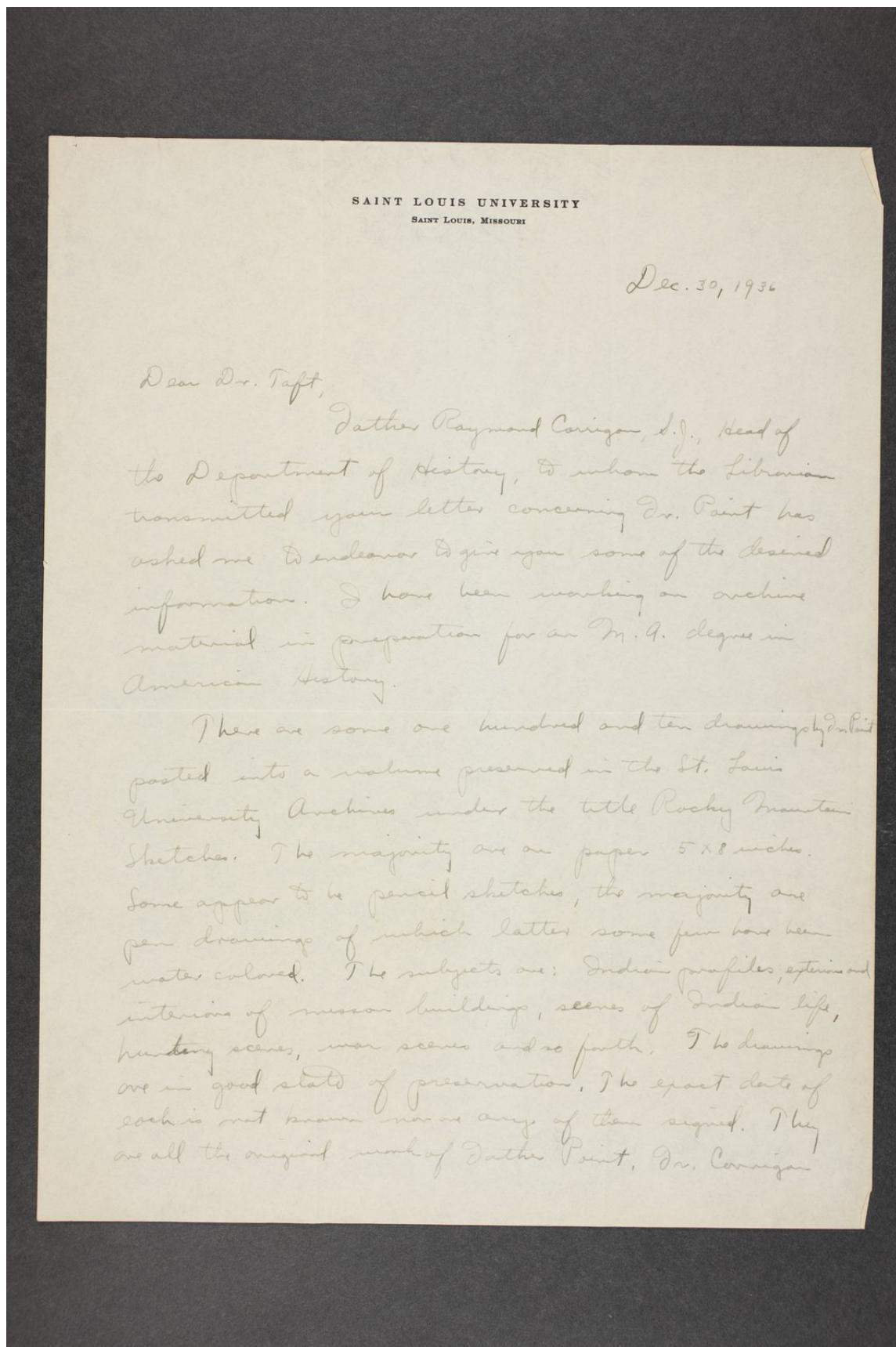


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SAIN T LOUIS UNIVERSITY
SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI

or better Dr. Bonnaphor (Taylor U., Chicago, Ill.) would have to be consulted as to their authenticity. There would seem to be no doubt as to this, however.

Dr. Paint was born in Evans in April, 1789. He came first to Kentucky and was later founder and president of St. Charles College, Grand Cation, La. In 1840 Paint was assigned to Father De Smet's first Indian missionary party which set out for the Flathead country from Westport (Kansas City) in 1841. Until 1847 he labored among the Rocky Mountain Indians; in that year he returned to St. Louis to depart immediately for the Jesuit Mission of Canada. He died on July 4, 1868 at Quebec, Canada. A splendid biographical sketch is to be found in Gilbert Bonnaphor's Chapters in Frontier History, Bius, Milwaukee, 1934.

I believe photostatic copies could be made of the drawings. As to this I would suggest you consult Father Corrigan.

If I can be of any further help to you please do not hesitate to ask me.

Sincerely,

Arthur G. Barth, S.J.

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Jan. 18
1937

Father Arthur A. Borth, S. J.,
St. Louis University,
St. Louis, Mo.

Dear Father Borth:

Thank you for your kind and informative letter of December 30th, concerning Father Point and his work. I am sure that I will wish to use some of the material you have described before many months but for the present I am content with knowing that the drawings still exist and are available.

I probably will take advantage of your offer to help me and thank you very much for it.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Taft

RT:NS

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Librarian, St. Louis University

Father Nicolas Point, a Jesuit Missionary among the Indians west of the Mississippi during the 1840's is reported to have made a number of drawings of the frontier and the Indians. Some years ago there were said to be in the possession of St. Louis University and I wish to find out if they are still in existence and in the possession of the University. If they still exist I would like to know the following facts concerning them:

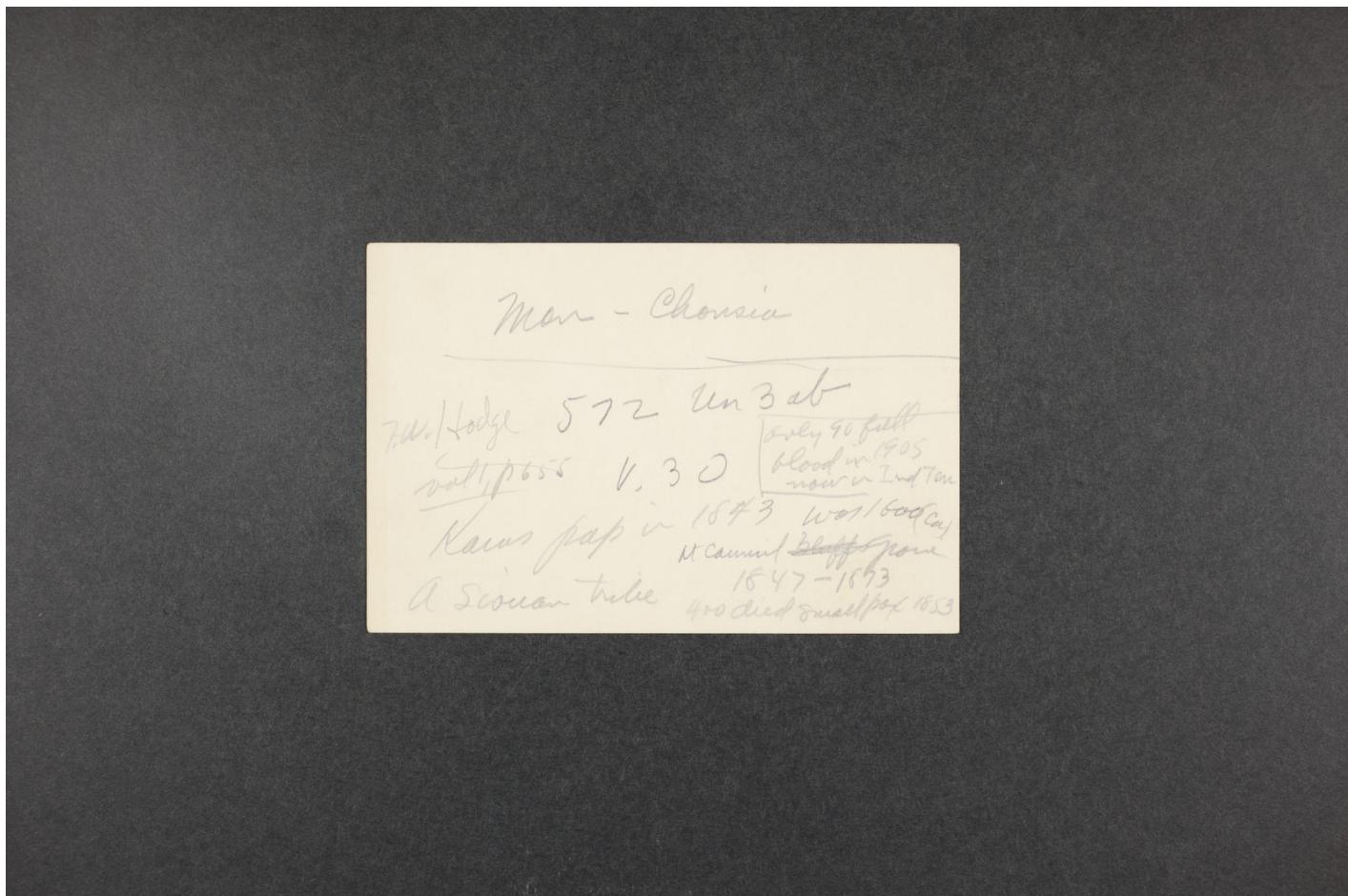
1. Number, size, and present condition.
2. If not too extended, the title of each, and date of these are known.
3. Type of work, i.e. pencil or charcoal drawing, water color, oil painting, etc. Notice particularly it is the original work that I am interested in, not lithographic copies of his original drawings.
4. Any information bearing on the authenticity of the work as that of Father Point.
5. A biographical sketch of Father Point.
6. Would it be possible to obtain photographic copies of selected examples of Father Point's work if they still exist? If published, due credit would be given St. Louis University.
7. If this illustrative material is not now in the possession of St. Louis University, can you give me any information concerning its fate?

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Kanya Village
7 other Paint (see p 198)
may have been artist.
If not, Paint it may
have been Englishman,
Romaine. I'm introduce
de Smet refers to allegorical
sketch (frontispiece) after
pencil of one of their
India missionaries.
Can tell nothing ~~about~~ by
comparison of sketch
as lithograph for both
was doubtless done.

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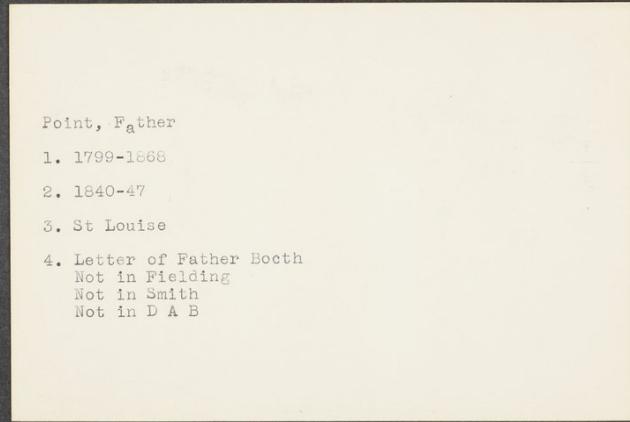
Father De Smet's life &
Travels - Clapperton &
Richardson vol 1, p 143
Refers to the history album
at St. L. Uni. contains water
colors by amateur artist,
Matthew Hastings

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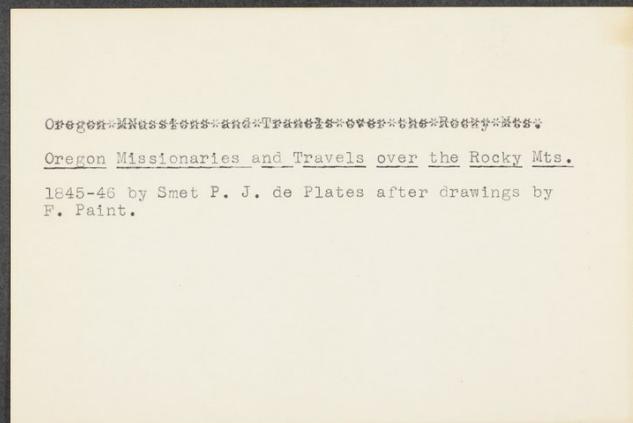


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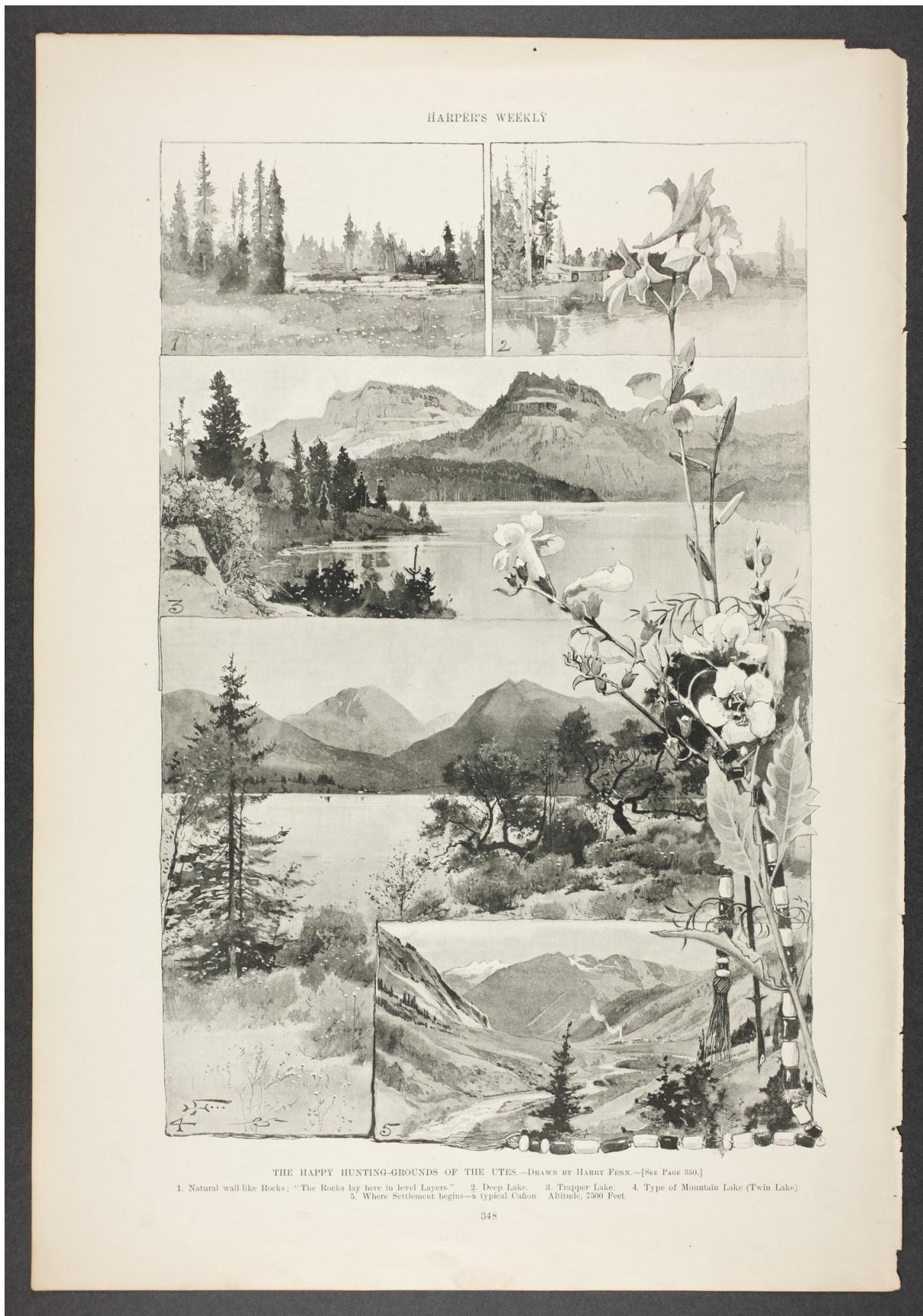


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August 2, 1940

Miss Jane Whelan, Librarian
The Public Library
Grass Valley, California

Dear Miss Whelan:

I have in preparation a book The Frontier in Picture which is to deal with the artists and illustrators who recorded the life and growth of our American west. Included in the list of artists that I have under study is Mary Hollock Foote who, for some years, was a resident of Grass Valley. The last edition of Who's Who gives her date of death as June 25, 1938, but does not state the place of her death. Can you furnish me with an obituary of Mrs. Foote from a Grass Valley paper, and do you know if there are any surviving relatives? Thank you greatly for your help.

Sincerely yours,

RT/cdo

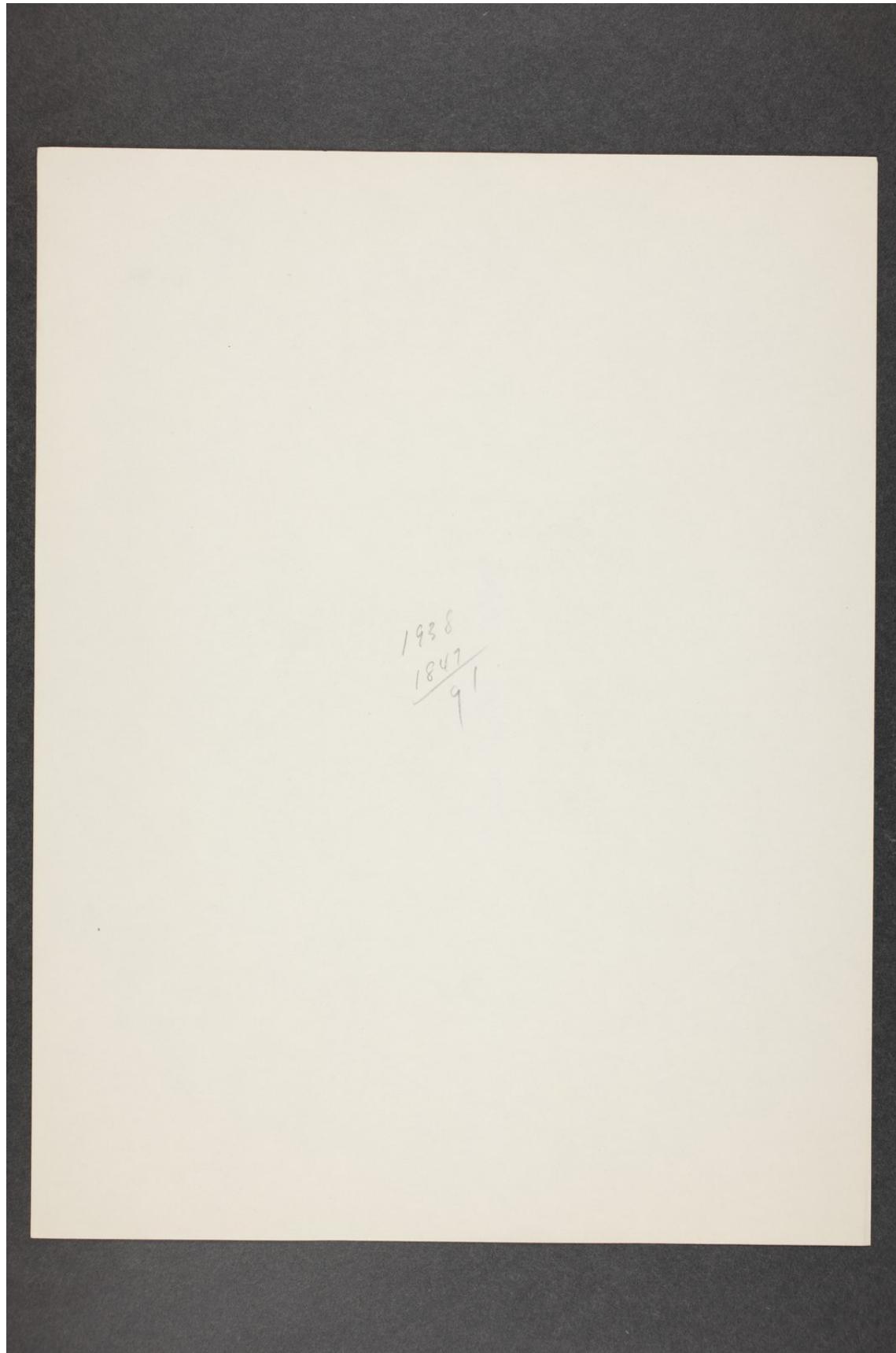
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