

Robert Taft general correspondence

Section 28, Pages 811 - 840

Robert Taft (1894-1955) was a professor of chemistry, author, historian, and editor at the University of Kansas. The general correspondence letters of Mr. Taft consist of letters between various organizations and people.

Date: 1918-1955

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CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS



PUBLISHERS

597 FIFTH AVENUE

NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

September 24, 1952

Dr. Robert Taft
The University of Kansas
Department of Chemistry
Lawrence, Kansas

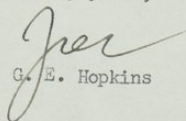
Dear Dr. Taft:

I was very glad to hear about your progress on the galleys. They look pretty good to me, but I plan to give them a real look-see when you return them. I know what the beginning of a term means to a professor so I shan't push you on time except to say the usual stuff about "the sooner we get them, the faster the production." I have told our people, I don't know how many times, to see to it that proofs and manuscripts are mailed or expressed in a proper protective wrapping. I will do it again.

So far as McGraw-Hill is concerned, I have nothing to report. All quiet on that front.

Best as always,

Sincerely yours,



J. G. E. Hopkins

JGEH:MS

Robert Taft general correspondence

September 26, 1952

Dr. Franklin B. Murphy
Strong Hall

Dear Dr. Murphy:

I had a conference with Mr. Vosper this morning about the traveling exhibit of the Pennell photographs and he is extremely enthusiastic about its possibilities. As soon as we have the exhibit in shape, he will circularize the libraries of the state concerning it and he will also call attention to the exhibit at the annual meeting of the state librarians at mid-October. He is sure that he can secure a sizeable schedule of showings, including at least one out of the state at the Library of Congress as his friend, Luther Evans the librarian, will be at the state meeting and he will take the matter of an exhibit up with him.

Both Mr. Vosper and I feel that care should be taken to make the physical appearance of the exhibit as attractive as possible. Our plan briefly is as follows: Mount 300 photographs (they will include a selection of those that you saw last summer) on six panels, measuring approximately 10 feet by 5 feet. Standards would be provided for each panel. Each photograph will have a number and a brief legend. Provide for distribution a four-page folder that will describe the nature of the collection, its availability for use in the University Library, and the significance of those photographs selected for exhibit. Attention would also be called to the fact that the exhibit could be secured for showing by responsible schools, libraries, organizations, etc.

The estimate on the cost of the exhibit which I have secured runs as follows:

Printing and mounting photographs	\$200.00
Printing leaflets (10,000)	200.00
Construction of six panels	330.00
Total	<u>\$730.00</u>

In addition, I still owe the Photographic Laboratory some \$300.00 for work on the Collection now filed and catalogued.

Any suggestions you may have on the exhibit itself will be gratefully received.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Taft

RT:c



September 26, 1952

521 N. 7th St.

Miss Everhard, Photographer
Fifth and Ottawa Streets
Leavenworth, Kansas

Dear Miss Everhard:

James Connelly, one of our students, has told me about your collection of early photographic materials. I am very much interested in the collection as is Dr. Murphy, our chancellor, and Mr. Vosper, our librarian.

I am just finishing up work on a collection of 30,000 negatives, the work of J.J. Pennell of Junction City in the period 1895-1923. We have gone through the collection, printed and catalogued some 4000 prints, and have added them to our library as source materials for students of history, sociology, and Kansas. We are planning now on making up a traveling exhibit of several hundred of the prints to send around the state.

So you can see why we are interested in your collection. I'll be very happy if Mr. Connelly can arrange an interview with you.

Sincerely,

Robert Taft
Professor of Chemistry

RT:c

Robert Taft general correspondence

CONFIDENTIAL

September 30, 1952

Chancellor Franklin Murphy
Frank Strong Hall
University of Kansas

Dear Chancellor Murphy:

This summer Professor Taft wrote me of his exciting ideas for developing a traveling exhibition from the Pennell collection of photographs. He wondered whether the library would be interested in participating in the project. I replied at once, and have reiterated in recent conversations as we have discussed this further, that I would consider this a remarkable opportunity for the library. An exhibition of this sort should be of extreme interest to people throughout the State of Kansas and should bring a great amount of good will to the University. This struck me immediately as an opportunity to bring to the attention of librarians and citizens throughout the State the possibilities for State service from the University library.

Consequently I am prepared to give Professor Taft all possible assistance in the project. I will plan to discuss the matter with my colleagues at the forthcoming meeting in Emporia of the Kansas Library Association, at which time I can get advice on a circuit and a schedule that will be most opportune for libraries or other public institutions throughout the State.

The library, then, will take on the scheduling and shipping and publicity programs, with help, of course, from others on the campus.

It immediately occurred to me that we will want to have a bang-up opening here in Lawrence just after the first showing at the State Historical Society in Topeka sometime late in October. It also seemed to me that there might be some interest outside of Kansas, at least in neighboring states, and particularly I thought of the fact that Luther Evans, the Librarian of Congress, will be present at the Emporia meeting; I'll talk to him about a possible showing in Washington.

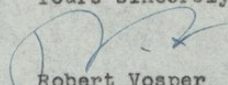
Chancellor Murphy

-2-

September 30, 1952

This is all by way of explaining my wholehearted belief
in the project.

Yours sincerely,



Robert Vosper
Director

RV/jlc

Copy:

Professor Robert Taft
115 Bailey Chemical Laboratory
University of Kansas

CONFIDENTIAL



Robert Taft general correspondence

September 30, 1952

Mr. Bernard DeVoto
8 Berkeley Street
Cambridge 38, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. DeVoto:

Since you expressed interest in the matter of the McCracken book Portrait of the Old West to be published by McGraw-Hill this fall, I'll report briefly on the present status of the situation. Hopkins at Scribners read the page proof of the McCracken book and told McGraw-Hill that there was no plagiarism of text, i.e., consecutive words of my articles were not employed in the text of the McCracken book. He further told McGraw-Hill that he did not think their book would interfere with the sale of my book. As I was not consulted before Hopkins made his statement to McGraw Hill, my complaints to McGraw Hill have taken little effect. Hopkins further told me that McGraw Hill threatened action against me for defamation of character (of McCracken) because of some uncomplimentary remarks I had made in one of my letters to McGraw-Hill--if I pressed the matter.

The whole affair leaves me in a rage which I can control with difficulty because apparently I can do so little about it. I am sure that McCracken has used my researches as the basis of his book--or at least a considerable portion of it. About the only thing I can think of is to ask any possible reviewers of McCracken's book to compare the book with my series of articles. If you have suggestions along this line, I certainly would appreciate them.

I'm reading proof now on my book with Scribners. They have designed it very nicely, I think. Publication is scheduled for early next year.

Many thanks for all your encouraging letters. When I get to feeling pretty down in the mouth, I get them out and read them--and am revived.

Kindest regards,

Robert Taft

RT:c



McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc.

TRADE BOOK DEPARTMENT



330 WEST 42ND STREET
NEW YORK 36, N.Y.

October 3, 1952

Dr. Robert Taft
Department of Chemistry
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Dr. Taft:

I have not been able to report to you earlier on my comparison of your material and Mr. McCracken's because I was out of the office most of August and September was an exceedingly busy month for me since I had to send five books off to press which will appear on our Spring 1953 list. And, as you can well imagine, the comparison which you asked me to make took quite a bit of time.

I must concur entirely with Mr. Hopkins of Scribners when he says that there is no possible plagiarism involved, that the scope and intent of the two books are entirely different, and that there is surprisingly little duplication of material considering the fact that both books deal in generally the same subject. I should like to make the following specific points:

1. Your articles, published in the *Kansas Historical Quarterly* between February of 1946 and August of 1951, covered, in general, the period in the growth of the West between 1870 and 1900, with occasional references to painters who precede and follow. McCracken's book, on the other hand, covers three and one-half centuries, from the middle of the 17th century to the death of Frederic Remington in 1909. Your material is much more penetrating and complete in the period which you have chosen to delineate; McCracken's covers a much wider scope, includes fewer details of any one period, and should be considered as an introduction (as he himself states in the Foreword) to the whole subject of western art.

2. Mr. McCracken's book and your articles each include the discussion of approximately thirty-three artists, but only eight of these turn up in both your work and his: Mulvaney, Adams, Becker, Farny, Schreyvogel, Remington, and Russell. (This list seems to include only seven, but as I remember there are eight). Of these artists, Mr. McCracken devotes an entire chapter to only three of them: Schreyvogel, Remington, and Russell. In light of these facts, I am frankly amazed not at the duplication of material but at the lack of it.

3. The main duplication appears in two places. Both of you have a chapter on the art depicting Custer's Last Stand and both refer to paintings

Robert Taft general correspondence

McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc.

TRADE BOOK DEPARTMENT

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of this battle by Mulvaney, Adams, and Becker. This duplication seems absolutely inevitable to me since no writer or historian of the West could possibly avoid Custer's Last Stand; and certainly the paintings which depict this event are solidly in the public domain and not much original research is necessary. The other instance of duplication is in regard to the artist Henry F. Farny. Four of the eight Farny's reproduced in your article will appear in McCracken's book. I happen to come from Cincinnati myself (Farny's home town) and various members of my family have owned Farny originals at one time or another. In this case, since I know something about Farny's background and work, I can vouch for the originality of Mr. McCracken's research myself. I have talked with McCracken any number of times about Farny and I can assure you that he does not need to borrow material on this subject from anyone.

4. Much of the art work in your magazine articles comes from old Harper's Magazines. In many cases they are reproductions of the *originals*. If I remember correctly, only two or three of the black and whites in the McCracken book come from Harper's and in *the* case of the color reproductions Mr. McCracken has gone to the trouble of having the original painting especially photographed for his purposes.

5. Your approach, Dr. Taft, is that of a scholar. Although I am only an amateur in this field of western art, it would seem to me that you have done a remarkable job of intense research within the period which interests you. However, McCracken's purpose was not really that of a scholar -- although certainly a good deal of scholarship has gone into his work -- but rather he has been intent on writing a popular introduction to the art of the *old west*. He does not think his book is the last word on the subject, but rather the first introductory word. As you will see when you read his book, he has included some history in it and has tried to sketch in the various periods and kinds of lives these artists lived in the West.

6. As for the origin of the McCracken book, I believe I have touched on that in previous letters. I know for a fact that he did not steal the idea from you because I was in on its birth. Mr. McCracken came to us, through his agent, Captain Joseph Shaw, with an idea for doing a book on Charles Russell. We looked at his Remington book, studied the Russell material already available, and suggested that he might broaden the base of his work and do a book on a number of the finer painters of the *old west*. The book's exact coverage and purposes evolved out of a series of conferences: the "old west" became the Great Plains (the Mississippi River

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McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc.

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to the Rockies, California excluded) and we decided that the book should begin at the beginning and go to the end of the 'old west' or Remington's death in 1909. I noted that your articles carried on past Remington to such contemporary artists as William Leigh, Gerard Curtis Delano, and others.

I have said before and I must say it again, there certainly is room for more than one writer in this rich field of western art. There was never any doubt in my mind that all of Mr. McCracken's ideas, sources, and writings are absolutely original. This is not the first letter I have written you to this effect, as you well know, but I'm afraid that I can go no further in my attempt to prove to you that the appearance of these two books in the same year is merely a coincidence. The two will be so very different, it seems obvious to me, that they should help rather than hinder each other and, in general, stir up a great deal of interest in the subject.

Sincerely,

Ed Kuhn

Edward Kuhn, Jr.
Associate Editor

EK/sbd



October 3, 1952

Mr. Franklin J. Meine, Editor
American Peoples Encyclopedia
153 N. Michigan Avenue
Chicago 1, Illinois

Dear Mr. Meine:

I'm not sure whether the enclosures will be of interest to you or not. In the hope that they will be, I send them along.

Proof on my book with Scribner's has been received and publication has been set for early next year. Artists and Illustrators of the Old West is our last choice for a title.

Had you heard that McGraw Hill is publishing a book this fall, Portrait of the Old West, by Harold McCracken, he who did the so-called biography of Remington? The chapter headings of the McCracken book include a considerable number of artists whom I rescued from oblivion in my series of articles, so you can guess where he is getting his information. I complained to McGraw Hill about the matter and they replied that McCracken was "a gentleman and a scholar." I hope reviewers will compare my articles with the McCracken book when it comes out.

Kindest regards,

Robert Taft

RT:c



Robert Taft general correspondence

BERNARD DEVOTO
8 BERKELEY STREET
CAMBRIDGE 38, MASSACHUSETTS

October 5, 1952

Dear Dr. Taft:

Lincoln's remark on what the office-seekers didn't leave him time to do perfectly describes the effect produced on my life by my irrational conclusion that the current political campaign needed my efforts. I also remember Don Marquis's unfortunate victim of the glass-eating habit, who began in the foolish and vainglorious belief that eating a glass now and then was only a social pleasure, that he could take it or leave it alone, but ended a glassware-sodden addict who stole the pennies from his innocent daughter in order to gratify his beastly longing. At any rate, one thing has led to another. Still I have been electioneering as busily as Harry S, and in the turmoil I passed up a chance that ought to have been obvious to me but wasn't. I have written Irita Van Doren to send me the McCracken book for review in the Herald-Tribune but I'm afraid I may have applied too late. I also told her to assign your book to me when it comes out, and then, if not now, I'll attend to McC. By the way, when your book is ready, tell Scribner to send a copy to the New England Quarterly, a journal of ~~XXXX~~ infinitesimal circulation but one that runs some of the best reviews in the country, and I'll do a repeat and more scholarly performance there.

McGraw-Hill answered my letter evasively, nearly a month after I wrote it. They said merely that other good books about the West were possible, and said that so foolishly that I didn't send it on to you.

I don't know whom to alert about McCracken. I'll tell Kay Jackson at Harper's to lay for it, but in the ordinary course of events Harper's probably would not review it, and it may already have gone into the discard heap. There was more interest in books, and better comment on them, in the press of Lawrence in 1855 than there is in the entire Boston press in 1952, or any time the last forty years. Have you ever seen or heard of a Boston newspaper review?

If I can give you the melancholy solace that when your book comes out McCracken's will get a beating — wherever an editor has sense enough to ~~XXXX~~ use the same reviewer for both. And of course in the few places where anyone knows anything about the subject, he'll be trampled on to begin with.

I doubt if ~~McGraw-Hill~~ talked over "defamation of character" with their lawyers. I can imagine no way in which your complaint to them could be brought within the legal definition.

There is no depression half so painful as the one that comes at the end of a book. I know, I'm in it too. Get out and travel some country roads in the Kansas autumn. Neither the psychiatrists nor the internists have ever found a medicine half so good as the American countryside.

I will presently have my book sent to you — bound copies in two or three weeks. God forbid I should solicit you to read any part of it, but if you want to see me baring my chest and bidding the historians strike, if you want a preview of the scalping I'm in for, look at Chapter X.

Good luck to you.

Yours,

Robert Taft general correspondence



THE American Peoples Encyclopedia

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WALTER DILL SCOTT, PH.D., LL.D., CHAIRMAN EDITORIAL BOARD

FRANKLIN J. MEINE, A.M., EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

7 October 1952

Mr. Robert Taft, Editor
University of Kansas
Department of Chemistry
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Mr. Taft:

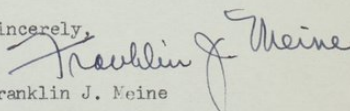
I am delighted to hear that your book will be published by Scribner's in the spring. I sincerely hope that we may have the pleasure of having you appear at the Caxton Club at that time to talk to us on the general subject. As I indicated once before I believe that we will be willing to pay \$50.00 plus your traveling expenses. I hope you will keep this possibility in mind.

I regret exceedingly, however, to hear that McGraw-Hill have stooped to so lowly a trick as to anticipate your book in the way that they have. I shall certainly bring this to the attention of the literary editors of Chicago whom I know.

I am glad to have the offprints of the articles which you sent and I shall put these in my collection of Western Americana.

It occurs to me that possibly you might be contemplating a trip to New York with reference to publication of your book and if you do and can let me know sufficiently far in advance, perhaps we can arrange to have you address the Caxton Club at that time.

Sincerely,



Franklin J. Meine

FJM/g

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Robert Taft general correspondence

Edward Eberstadt & Sons

Specialists in Old and Rare Books Relating to the Far West
888 MADISON AVE. (AT 72nd ST.)
NEW YORK 18, N.Y.

October 8, 1952

Dr. Robert Taft
Department of Chemistry
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Dr. Taft:

It certainly was nice of you to point out in your letter of October 4th, the several leads on sketches discussed in your book. I suppose we can get in touch with Judge Hamlin just by addressing him at Farewell, Texas. But the two children of Zogbaum are another matter. Neither of them is listed in the New York City telephone directories and we are stumped as to how to reach them. I wonder, therefore, if you would do us the favor of looking up their addresses and letting us know how we can get in touch with them. It is also good of you to promise to send us next week, Hays' sketch of Fort Union. We will look forward to receiving it and will write you about it as soon as it comes to hand.

I am glad indeed to hear that you are going to write up an article on Vincent Colyer and still cherish the hope that you may be able to get it done in time to add to the book, even though much of it is already in press. I will get together all of our material and send it on to you shortly. I am not sure, off hand, how many sketches there are, but it is somewhere in the vicinity of 200. Nor can I tell you off hand, the exact dates comprehended by the collection, but the vast majority of the work was done between 1868 and 1872. I will be more definite on this score in my next letter.

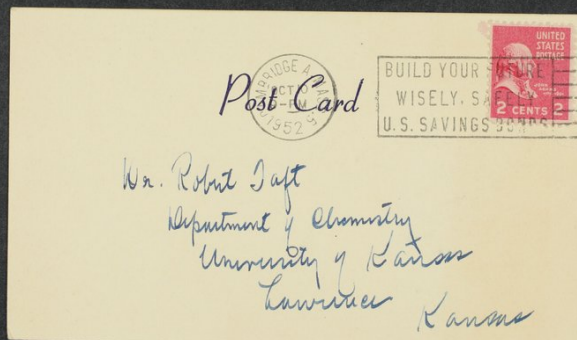
Again, with thanks and kindest regards from all of us, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Charles E.

CE:ls

Robert Taft general correspondence



Robert Taft general correspondence

Bernard De Voto - 8 Berkeley Street - Cambridge 38, Massachusetts

Lita is going to send me the C for
review & will put me down for
your book when it's ready. This
probably signals Communist
infiltration at the Harvard-Bureau but
why not?
BT

Robert Taft general correspondence

10/10/52

Dear Doctor Taft:

Once more I am indebted to you for some interesting and - as always - informative reading from your hand. And I thank you for your thoughtfulness.

"Seeing Kansas" recalled two places to mind which I had not seen in years - the one from the top of Mount Oread, which Chancellor Murphy likes; the other, on U. S. Highway 160, west of Medicine Lodge, from points along the road where you can see those red hills. They reminded me then, & do now, of the similar red hills along the road from Auburn, Ala. (where I headed the journalism school - Alabama Polytechnic Institute - 1930-32). And I add a view - looking over the U. S. Forest Service plantation of hardwoods, once the Kansas National Forest. My old boss and friend, John Spencer, planted them back in the 20's.

"A Hunter's Paradise" lets me know again, why there are extinct species, and will be others. What senseless slaughter we had under non-administered hunting! This was a fascinating article, sir - especially for one - myself - who for years had collected everything published on the buffalo. "Bone-picking outfits" and their ilk - are a subject I have much on - but this is all new. So - doubly, thanks.

I'm pleased to hear that Artists and Illustrators of the Old West is due for early '53 issuance. As I have indicated, I'm in line now for a copy. I knew about the M^cCracken book, yes. Had he lived, Elmo Scott Watson would have done it for M^cGraw-Hill, it may interest you to know. However, I doubt that the M^cCracken opus will, bother your Scribner sales much. Many collectors will buy both; most would prefer the Taft - Scribner hallmark. Such shenanigans go on every day! I could tell you the story, for example, of why I had to write two M.A. theses. My wife (who had another book published today!) could tell you of the time she sweat six months on a book and had it ready to mail to the publisher when she got a wire they were publishing another author's copy, on the same subject.

Robert Taft general correspondence

Although I do not know that I'll get it, I listed
in H. C. Revercomb's (1830 Walker ave., Kans. C. 4, Kans.) la-
test catalogue, item 7: Annual Report of the Smithsonian
Institution, 522 pp. Illus. Wash. 1951 (\$3.00) \$2.00
Contains: "Samuel Seymour: Pioneer Artist of the Plains &
Rockies by John F. McDermott (with 16 plates); etc." Did
you know about that?
Good luck with your new book - and whatever
you're at!

Sincerely yours,
Don Bloch

P.S. I've meant to inquire whether you know Jack B.
Virtue, who was a member of your English faculty some
years ago. I know Jack of course... but his wife,
Maxine, was my sweetheart for a long while at North-
western university, during the years I taught there in the
English department. She and Jack and their two girls
visited me here in SHC about 6 weeks ago.



THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS
LAWRENCE

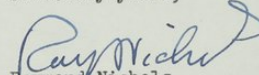
OFFICE OF
THE CHANCELLOR

October 16, 1952

Memo to Mr. Taft:

This is to inform you that in accordance with your request to Dr. Murphy for additional funds in connection with the Pennell collection, the maintenance allotment on this project has been increased by \$1,030.

Sincerely yours,


Raymond Nichols
Executive Secretary

RN:vw

CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS



PUBLISHERS

597 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

October 16, 1952

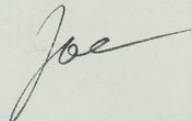
Dr. Robert Taft
Dept. of Chemistry
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Dr. Taft:

I knock my head in the dust! Shortly after I wrote you all the galleys arrived in good shape and we are rushing them into pages. We will add one of the Colyer pictures (they are very good by the way). As you know, we already have two pictures by W. M. Cary represented.

To hell with consistencies. This business of quotes, volume numbers and so on is only a printer's dodge to raise the author's alteration account. It annoys me very much and I take delight in turning down such suggestions. As you may recall, many of these decisions regarding lower and upper case letters, style of names, etc. were made last spring when we were exchanging letters about the manuscript. As we approach the book stage I feel very happy about everything and trust you do also.

Yours sincerely,



JEGH:b

Robert Taft general correspondence

UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS
Office of the Librarian

October 17, 1952

Mr. Joseph Stanley Pennell
Ocean Crest
Seaside, Oregon

Dear Mr. Pennell:

I came to this new and interesting position at Lawrence only a month ago, coming from the University of California Library in Los Angeles. One of the many things that attracted me here was Professor Robert Taft's illuminating program to discover and describe the early pictorial record of the westward movement in this country and particularly the amazing and rich J. J. Pennell collection of photographs that is now here in the Library under his guidance, thanks to your generosity and vision.

Not many days ago I had an opportunity to meet with my colleagues from a number of other libraries in the State of Kansas and tell them a little bit about the Pennell Collection and our plans for making it available as a traveling exhibition for the pleasure and interest of the people of the State. Professor Taft had the enclosed leaflet printed for distribution, and I know it has already attracted a good deal of favorable attention throughout the State.

I was also extremely interested to find that you obviously have a close connection with the University of Kansas, as "The History of Nora Beckham," of course, reveals. You must know, of course, that we are very proud here of the fine collection on the history of Kansas that has been developed in the Library by Miss Maud Smelser. Copies of your novels are in that collection as well as in the general reading collection of the Library. It occurs to me, however, that it would be extremely valuable and exciting if we could also sometime add to



Mr. Pennell

-2-

October 17, 1952

the Kansas collection the manuscripts or rough drafts or galleys of your books, if you still have them. You know, of course, how important those materials are as a chart to the development of the final and inspired book itself, and it has always seemed to me that these backgrounds to the development of a book should be carefully preserved, if possible, in a public institution where they can also form part of the teaching and research program and thus give encouragement and advice to generations of young people.

Naturally I think of the University of Kansas Library as a most worthy and hospitable place, and I wonder whether you have ever given thought to such a possibility. It would be a great honor for us to have a Joseph Stanley Pennell collection in the Kansas Room. I am hopeful that other authors with ties to Kansas will be sympathetic to such a program.

You could be assured here of an intelligent and sensitive program for preserving this kind of invaluable literary material and for making it part of the life of the University. We are engaged now upon a regular program of exhibitions, and it seems to me that an exhibit of your manuscripts and galleys and the final book itself would be most valuable for the University community and others who visit the Library.

This, then, is by way of a begging letter which I hope may appeal to you.

I can't help remarking nostalgically upon your present address. I grew up in Portland and went to school in Eugene, and during those several years my summers, and very pleasant ones they were, were spent on the Oregon coast at Seaside itself or south over the hump at Cannon beach. I have very warm memories of long, lonely walks over to the north of Seaside, of gathering huckleberries in the hills for wonderful pies, and of digging razor clams at low tide for fine meals of clam chowder or clam fries. I wonder if these native pleasures are still to be had; if so, I trust you enjoy them.

Yours most sincerely,

Robert Vosper
Director

RV/jlc

Enclosure

Copy to:
Professor Robert Taft
115 Bailey Chemistry Lab



Edward Eberstadt & Sons

Specialists in Old and Rare Books Relating to the Far West

55 WEST 42nd STREET
NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

October 22, 1952

Dr. Robert Taft
Department of Chemistry
University Of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Dr. Taft:

Many thanks for sending on the little sketch of Ft. Union by Hays, which has come safely to hand. I am sorry you did not put a figure on it, for it is a difficult thing to appraise someone's else things. Anyway, I know you will be glad to hear that we acquired the other day, a number of Hays sketches from the family, and of course, we greatly appreciate your pointing out to us the article on these sketches. They are very interesting things, but of course do not possess the value or beauty they would have had, had they been done in water color.

We are enclosing herewith our check in the sum of \$200 which I hope you will feel is entirely acceptable in payment for the sketch and as a token of our appreciation for your helping us acquire the other things.

Looking forward to the pleasure of hearing from you soon and with kindest regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Edward Eberstadt

CE:ls
P. S.

I still have not yet got out the material we have on Colyer but if there is a chance that you can write him up for your forthcoming book, please drop me a note to that effect and I will put aside all else to give you all the information at our disposal.



Robert Taft general correspondence

BERNARD DEVOTO
8 BERKELEY STREET
CAMBRIDGE 38, MASSACHUSETTS

October 24, 1952

Dear Dr. Taft:

I don't know whether you have seen McCracken's book yet, so I send the sheets I ~~just~~ sent me. (I haven't had a copy of the book, so couldn't provide all the information necessary for the head.) It turns out to be so trivial, superficial, and indeed unpretentious that I could not in good conscience give it, ~~for~~ for the Herald-Tribune, a stronger slating than I did. If it should come to the New England Quarterly I will take it apart in detail.

The injury he has done you is only that he has published the book at all. Unhappily it is the kind of injury that hurts the pocket nerve, for it may be that he will skim some of your sales. Even this is open to considerable doubt, for he cannot really be said to be in competition with you. No one who reads you will fail to see his direct debt to you or fail to notice your enormous originality, ~~his~~ superiority, and authority. No one who reads him will fail ~~to~~ to see his superficiality, misconceptions, errors, and evasions, or the vast areas of his ignorance. Apart from sales, it may be that ~~he~~ he ~~has~~ done you a service by providing a background for comparison.

When is your book due? ~~I~~ I will touch up McCracken again when it comes out.

It seems that my illusion that I am a politician is now landing me on the campaign train. At least there should be a literary dividend from the experience. And I will be capable of writing sense to you soon, I trust, after November 4. Meanwhile good luck to you.

Yours,

B. Devoto

* I got a set of my sheets yesterday. Bound expires the end of next week, publication November 19

I don't want assign me any grim angles. The book is so unimportant that I suspect she will cut my review



LINDLEY EBERSTADT

CHARLES EBERSTADT

Edward Eberstadt & Sons

Specialists in Rare Americana

888 MADISON AVENUE

NEW YORK 21, N.Y.

October 30, 1952

Dr. Robert Taft
Department of Chemistry
University Of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Dr. Taft:

Many thanks for yours of the 24th, acknowledging the check for \$200 that we sent you in connection with the Hays pictures.

I am glad to hear that something on Colyer is being added to the book and that one of his pictures will go in. Inasmuch as it now appears we will probably break up this collection, it would seem wiser to refrain from mentioning the exact number of items it contained. Probably the situation could be covered sufficiently by stating that the Colyer drawings and paintings were sold in the estate of his heirs in 1952, numbering in the vicinity of several hundred works, painted mostly between 1868-1872, and were almost all bought by the firm of Edward Eberstadt and Sons.

When you are free to write the article on Colyer that you mentioned, we will be glad to send on to you the papers that we have of his, and kindred material.

With best regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

CE:ls

CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS



PUBLISHERS

597 FIFTH AVENUE

NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

October 31, 1952

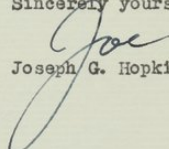
Dr. Robert Taft
Department of Chemistry
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Dr. Taft:

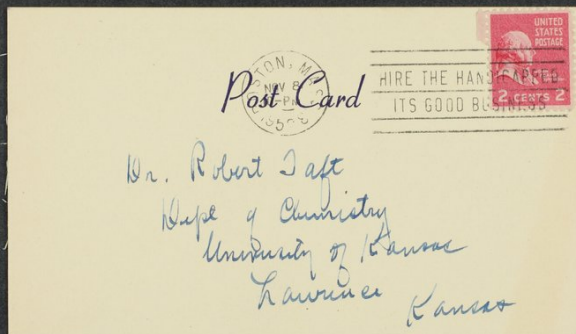
Herewith the remaining pages together with the galleys for comparison. You will notice that in almost every case I have crossed out suggested changes in style in the notes. Please check accuracy of the manuscript additions. Fill in missing page citations and return as quickly as possible.

You will be pleased to hear that the McCracken book appears to have laid a monumental egg.

Sincerely yours,


Joseph G. Hopkins

JGH:gj



Robert Taft general correspondence

Bernard De Voto - 8 Berkeley Street - Cambridge 38, Massachusetts

I meant you to keep the Mc Carver photo.
I have since received the bound book & have
no use for it. Do you want it for your collec-
tion? Or have I missed?
The one consolation of the election is the hope
that maybe I can get back to something in-fitted
to do.
Why didn't you let me know when
you were in New England? D

Robert Taft general correspondence

ROOSEVELT COLLEGE

MEMO

TO _____ DATE November 10, 1952
FROM _____ RE: _____

Dear Bob,

I thought you might be interested in seeing the review and adv. of McCracken's book, taken from yesterday's Sunday Tribune Magazine of Books. I remember your talking to me about this during the past summer, and can only hope that the "evidence" I am now sending you will not raise your blood pressure too much. President Truman, if one may believe certain reports, knows some of the appropriate words to apply to Mr. McC.

We have had a busy fall, what with a fair amount of company in the weeks just after we came in from Winona, and the many necessary chores at home and at the College. Our enrollment at R. C. is down this fall, about 17% over the fall of '51, and this tendency, in a school like ours, can lead to rather serious budgetary results. My own work, nevertheless, goes on about as usual, and, in fact, becomes somewhat more difficult as a result of the shrinkage. Up to this point, our departmental staff is about the same as last year's, which makes scheduling of classes, etc., more troublesome.

We had a good visit with Mother and then, a little later, with Gordon, who was here for a couple of days while Mother was with you. We also had a visit from Marty's sister Ada & her husband during October.

We both keep pretty well, & hope you all do, too. I suppose that Dorothy gets over from Columbia now & then, and that you get periodic reports from the young people at State College.

Affectionate regards to you all from both of us.



Robert Taft general correspondence

STANFORD UNIVERSITY
STANFORD, CALIFORNIA

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

November 17, 1952

Professor Robert Taft
Department of Chemistry
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Mr. Taft:

Thank you very much for sending on the little piece on O'Sullivan. I am very glad to have it and have made a copy for myself. I have not written to Mrs. Baumhofer, but it is good to have her name in case I need advice in future. Thanks again.

Sincerely,

Wallace Stegner M.K.
Wallace Stegner

WS:nk

Robert Taft general correspondence

A TIP TOP REPUBLICAN

A Footnote to the Life of T.H. O'Sullivan

Hermine M. Baumhofer

".... he is an educated gentleman of superior qualifications in his profession and in every way personally worthy and a Tip Top Republican into the Bargain," so writes one Henry O'Connor to the Secretary of the Treasury, the Hon. John Sherman in October 1880.

The object of this encomium was Timothy H. O'Sullivan, Civil War photographer; photographer on the U.S. Geological Exploration of the Fortieth Parallel under the direction of Clarence King in 1867, 1868, and 1869; photographer on the U.S. Geographical Survey West of the 100th Meridian in 1871, 1873, and 1875 under Lt. Geo. M. Wheeler; and photographer on the Exploration and Survey for a Ship Canal by Way of the Isthmus of Darien in 1874.

By 1880 the great adventures were behind him and O'Sullivan was working for the U.S. Geological Survey on a temporary appointment by the Director, Clarence King, at a salary of \$100 per month. He was apparently not very active, since the expenditures for photographic materials for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1880 totalled only \$6.75.

The death of Lewis E. Walker, Photographer in the Office of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury Department, left a vacancy for which O'Sullivan applied at the end of October 1880. The position carried with it the handsome salary (by 1880 standards) of \$2250, almost twice as much as O'Sullivan received from the Geological Survey.

Among the records of the Treasury Department now in the National Archives, are his application, his oath of office, and a most interesting series of letters of recommendations, including the one cited above.

The letters are like a roll call of the figures important to the photographic history of the period. There is a brief letter signed by