

Oswald's Letters Will Be Sold At Auction Here on Sept. 30

By HOPE MacLEOD N.Y. POST 9-20-65 (28:3-5)

Thirty-two items connected with the short life of Lee Harvey Oswald, including letters in his rather awkward writing, will be sold to the highest bidder Sept. 30.

One of the most important items is a letter Oswald wrote to his mother from Russia. In it he writes of the event that embittered him toward the U. S. government—reversal of his honorable discharge “into an undesirable one” — and his efforts to get back to this country, including a loan of \$500 from “the Embassy” for the trip. He also mentioned the letter he wrote to then Navy Secretary Connally in which he complained of the military's treatment of him. Connally, as governor of Texas, was shot when President Kennedy was assassinated.

These may be the only autographs of Oswald, assassin of President Kennedy, which will ever be offered for sale, says Charles Hamilton, the autograph dealer handling the auction at the Gotham Hotel.

The Oswald items are among 214 autograph letters and documents relating to famous persons which will be placed on the block. Also included are eight Jacqueline Kennedy letters, four President Kennedy letters, a letter from Adolf Eichmann in prison to his captor, and menus autographed by Nikita Khrushchev and Charles deGaulle.

Oswald's mother, Mrs. Marguerite Oswald, is selling the items relating to her son because, she told Hamilton, she hopes publicity will cause a new inquiry into what she considers was a gross miscarriage of justice.

She also needs the money to

help prove her son was innocent, she said. Hamilton estimates the value at the items at over \$5,120. “They could go for far less or 10 times as much,” he added.

An intriguing part of the collection consists of two unopened letters Mrs. Oswald wrote to her son while he was in Moscow and which are returned to her. “I have no recollection of what I wrote,” and did not open them, she said. The Warren Commission, which had held some of the items and marked them with its own identification, later returned them to her still sealed. “If the letters were opened by the Commission,”

she said, “it was done secretly and without my knowledge.”

Among the letters by Mrs. Kennedy that will be auctioned is one written Nov. 9, 1954 to a woman in which, discussing her husband's illness at the time, she declines an invitation and says, “I just wouldn't want to leave Jack for the day or so that would involve as he is still very sick, and I have to feed him all his meals or he won't eat, and as he's not allowed any more visitors, that would mean he'd spend a whole day alone... Even if I did it wouldn't make any sense because I would just be worrying about Jack...”