

W/6

Book Agent Says He Obtained 'Love Letters' Written by Nixon

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Scott Meredith, the literary agent, says he has in his possession 22 letters, some of which he described as "love letters," allegedly written by former President Richard M. Nixon to a married woman during the last few months of his Administration.

Mr. Meredith, who would not identify the woman or the man who had given him the letters, said he had been trying to have the letters authenticated since he was first told about them in early March.

"I'm not officially satisfied yet that they're authentic," Mr. Meredith said in an interview yesterday, "but my instinct tells me they are." Moreover, he said, two handwriting analysts, whom he also declined to name, have said that the writing in the letters matches that of Mr. Nixon.

Anonymous Tip

According to Mr. Meredith, the letters also refer to political pressures that Mr. Nixon was under and occasionally to his concern about his drinking too heavily.

Mr. Nixon was unavailable for comment at his home in San Clemente, Calif. Mr. Meredith said his agency had not tried to verify the letters with the former President because such an effort, he said, would be futile.

The woman to whom Mr. Meredith said he believes the letters were written—he still lacks proof of her identity—has refused to confirm or deny the

validity of the letters, the agent said. However, Mr. Meredith said, the woman confirmed that she knew Mr. Nixon.

Mr. Meredith said he first learned of the existence of the letters two months ago when he received an anonymous tip about them. The informant said that if the agent was interested in knowing more, he should place an advertisement in The Los Angeles Times saying "Richard Come Home."

Mr. Meredith said he complied and was then reached by a man whom he described as living in Orange County, Calif., and prominent "in an area not far removed from Republican politics."

That person, Mr. Meredith said, explained that he wanted to compile the letters in a book, accompanied by a commentary.

After seeing the letters, Mr. Meredith said, he agreed that he would try to have them authenticated and, if valid, published.