

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
MONTANA STATE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

April 25, 1985

The meeting of the Appropriations Committee was called to order by Vice-Chairman Donaldson on April 25, 1985 at 1 p.m. in Room 104 of the State Capitol.

ROLL CALL: The roll was not called, but all members were present except Representative Menahan, who was excused.

(This meeting was not taped.)

HOUSE BILL 961: "AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO THE MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY TO PURCHASE THE CHARLES M. RUSSELL COLLECTION OF LETTERS, PAINTINGS, AND SKETCHES BELONGING TO THE ELKS LODGE OF GREAT FALLS, MONTANA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

Representative Bardanouve presented his bill. He said there is an opportunity to purchase this collection and called it a rare opportunity for the state of Montana. He said there were three appraisals and \$482,000 is the average appraised value. He said the Historical Society may be able to raise the \$182,000 difference between the \$300,000 appropriation and the appraisal.

Proponents: Representatives Miller, Moore and Nathe asked to be recorded as proponents.

Brian Cockhill, Administrative Officer, Montana Historical Society, said Dr. Robert Archibald, Director, did not know of this meeting in time to appear, so he is appearing to represent Dr. Archibald. He said the Historical Society will do their best to raise the dollar difference if they are given the opportunity.

Referring to one of the sketches in the collection (EXHIBIT 1), ~~Representative Miller said that a member of the Elks Club said~~ he is given a copy of the sketch titled "I rode him".

Representative Nathe said Dr. Christlieb, an Omaha, Nebraska physician, owns the world's largest collection of Russell bronzes. These bronzes are now on loan to the Joslyn Art Museum in Omaha. He said he hopes the state of Montana keeps its eye on this collection, in case it ever becomes available.

Representative Lory asked why not amend the bill to \$400,000 to assure Montana gets the collection. Representative Bardanouve said there may be a reaction to the \$300,000 resulting in private parties putting up some money to make up the difference between \$300,000 and \$482,000 (the purchase price limit in the bill).

Representative Quilici asked Brian Cockhill if the Historical Society would have any trouble getting the \$182,000. Brian Cockhill said funds were raised to purchase the Russell titled "When The Land Belonged to God" and Mr. Archibald is very skilled at raising money for the Historical Society.

Representative Winslow asked if this could be a loan from the grants and trust funds so the money can be paid back. Representative Bardanouve said the Arts Council prioritizes its projects, so the idea is certainly worthy of consideration.

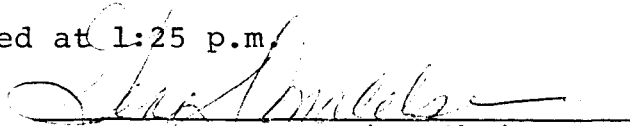
Representative Ernst asked if there is anything wrong with the public buying these, or given a chance to buy them. Representative Bardanouve said no, but the state would probably be outbid. Representative Miller said this would probably break up the collection and bits and pieces would go out of state.

E X E C U T I V E A C T I O N :

Representative Lory made a motion to amend the bill to \$350,000. A voice vote was taken and the motion failed.

Representative Waldron made a motion that House Bill 961 DO PASS. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried, with Representatives Ernst and Rehberg voting no, and Representative Bardanouve abstaining, and Representative Menahan voting yes by proxy.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.



GENE DONALDSON, Vice-Chairman

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

April 25, 1985

MR. SPEAKER

We, your committee on APPROPRIATIONS

having had under consideration HOUSE Bill No. 961

First reading copy (White)
color

**PURCHASE THE CHARLES M. RUSSELL COLLECTION OF LETTERS, PAINTINGS
AND SKETCHES**

Respectfully report as follows: That HOUSE Bill No. 961

DO PASS

EXHIBIT 1
Bardanouve
4/25/85



Sawmill Road, Montana City
January 20, 1985

Dr. Robert Archibald, Director
Montana Historical Society
Helena, MT 59601

Dear Dr. Archibald,

In accordance with your request, I have finished the appraisal of the Charles M. Russell Collection of letters, paintings and sketches belonging to the Elks Lodge of Great Falls, Montana. It is my opinion that the fair market value of the collection at this time is \$482,650.00.

This collection is varied in subject matter, technique and quality. This group of letters and art works would fill a void that exists in the collection of the Montana Historical Society. My records indicate that this is the last major collection of illustrated letters known to exist. There is no doubt that were this collection offered on the open market that it would sell readily, I hope that the State of Montana can acquire this collection.

If I may be of further assistance please call on me.

Cordially,

Robert F. Morgan
Artist/Consultant



427-74-1

Oil on Canvas, 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 11",
"Deer Feeding at Lake"

Signed C. M. Russell w/skull
dated 1916. Lower left.

\$40,000.00



BILL RANCE GREAT FALLS MONT

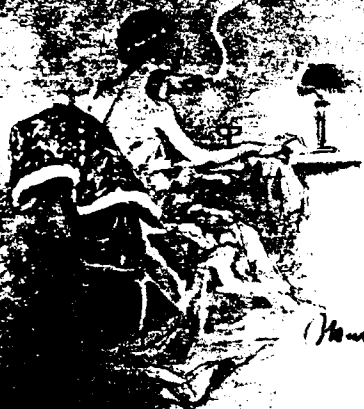


427-81-2

"Bill Rance, Great Falls",

December 13, 1903, illustrated
letter w/c envel. 5 1/2" x 8 3/8"

\$15,000.00



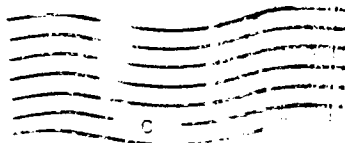
March 1st
1916

Bill Mason won
 tonight. She is stripped for a bath
 before going. She's at dinner
 the garments of a female in
 wouldn't pad a crown
 of the is a sign of civilization
 as spellers leather judging

the following for among
 I went to the cabaret yesterday and
 I knew the old with the kid
 off. But the New York Cabaret
 has got anything I've ever seen
 skinned to a fair you will
 Old Irving Fisher Barnett (Masher
 Evans even Chicago Joe would
 have to take their hats off
 their joints would look like the
 meeting place of reformers
 This town is certainly lively. There's
 a lot of plungers that used to blow
 from Paris in France and England
 but some how they are gun shy
 this year. Nobody cares to go in
 riding. So there bunches here
 blowing their corn

best regards to yourself
 and the bunch

your friend
 C. M. Russell



Mr. Bill Mason
 1000 10th St.
 New York

427-31-3

"Friend Bill" March 1, 1916
 illus. letter w/c envel.

C.M. Russell 16 3/4" x 5 1/4"

\$12,500.00

SS 1005's 1020 12

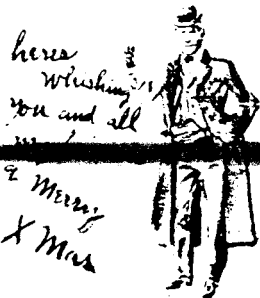
Friend Bill
I am still
here in the
smoke of the
tall trees
an about the
on my exit
ment get
is dodging cars
and automobiles
but that's plenty
of course the law
enforces them
to ring the bell
after passing over

a human but I think that to
call the wagon which hauls you
to the morgue. I was out at
the worlds fair ground the other
day an took twenty five cents
worth of automobile hadent gon for
till I'd a give more than that to
walk betwix holding on an
staying under my hat I was
mighty busy I thought the
D- thing was running away
any how we were shure

going sum it reminds
me of some ride Jr.
had with you

behind that ladys horse
you used to own the one you
sold in Butte he
was so kind I have
often wonderd if
the man that bought him
is still living

well Bill I will close
you will notice in the picture
how I spent money on hair nes
but I'm going to close well
if it braces me



here
wishing
you and all

Merry
X Mas

Your friend
C. Russell

will be home
in about
three weeks

427-31-4

"Friend Bill" December 17, 1903

illus. w/c letter 3 pgs

C. Russell

\$30,000.00



Friend Bill
I heard there was a man up on the
hill that mixed up with
a lady grizzly on the dance
the genuine grizzly bear dance
they say the man wasnt strong
on round dances but he confident
every body's doing
it on I guess before
the dance started he was
putty near every one had done it
to him the lady that arrived after the
ball the first time

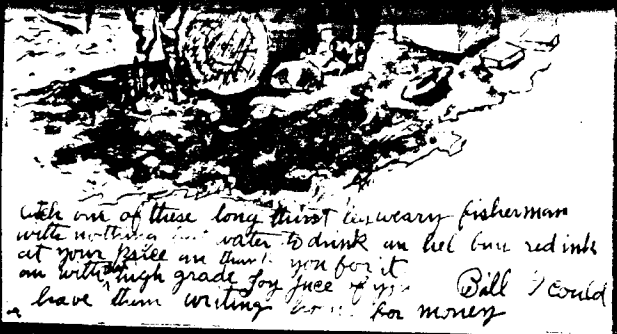
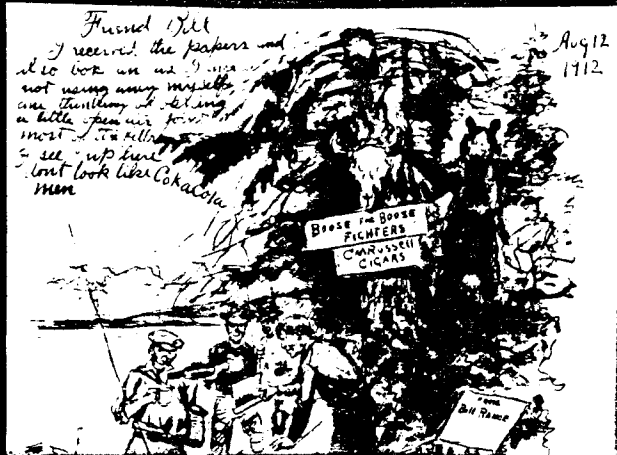
427-81-5

"Hellow Sentral" undated illus.

w/c letter C.M. Russell

6 3/4" x 10 3/4"

\$12,500.00



Bill there aint much doing up here
I heard it was a man up on the
hill that mixed up with
a lady grizzly on the dance
the genuine grizzly bear dance
they say the man wasnt strong
on round dances but he confident
every body's doing
it on I guess before
the dance started he was
putty near every one had done it
to him the lady that arrived after the
ball the first time

well, I'm close
with regards to your
in the bunch.
Your Friend
C. M. Russell

427-81-6

"Friend Bill" August 12, 1912

illus. w/c letter/2 pgs

C. M. Russell 10" x 8"

\$30,000.00

Bill Pance

Silver Dollar
Great Falls
Montana

Stuart, Florida April 7, 1912



Here I am Bill
and all these things I'm sending you
on the square
I've seen the time these people would
have worried me some but not now
I'm old friend Bill I would say
all these are more to me I don't
think he was ever further south
than Panama. This proves that you
lost have to have to see the wonders
of the world.
But this is sure the home of it
causing a man in flying through
it is wonderful but I wouldn't
forget any full light to come
I want to see you to know it
I want to see you to know it
With regards to yourself
I am your friend

427-81-7

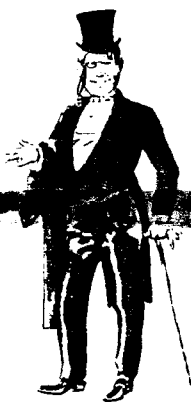
"Here I am Bill" April 7, 1912

Illus. w/c letter & envel./2 pgs
C. M. Russell 6 3/8" x 10 3/8"

\$22,500.00

Bill Pance

Great Falls
Montana



Would you know
me Bill

427-81-8

"Would You Know Me Bill" Feb. 10
1905 Illus. w/c letter & envel.

C. M. Russell 8" x 5"

\$12,500.00



Bill Rance
Silver Dollar
Great Falls
Montana

427-81-9

"Bill Rance" May 23, 1911 envel.
C.M. Russell 3½" x 5½"

\$50.00

G. M. RUSSELL,
GREAT FALLS, MONTANA.



Bill Rance
Great Falls
Mont

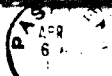
427-81-10

"Bill Rance" Sept. 4, 1908 envel.
C.M. Russell 3½" x 6½"

\$50.00

Bill Rance CAL

Care of Goodmans Cigar Co
Great Falls
Mont



427-81-11

"Bill Rance, Care of Goodmans
Cigar Co." April 12 envel.
C. M. Russell 3½" x 5¼"

\$50.00



-As I was-

Yours Truly
CMR

427-81-12

"As I Was", undated signed
yours Truly, sketch ink wash
CMR/skull C.M.Russell 8" x 10"

\$12,000.00



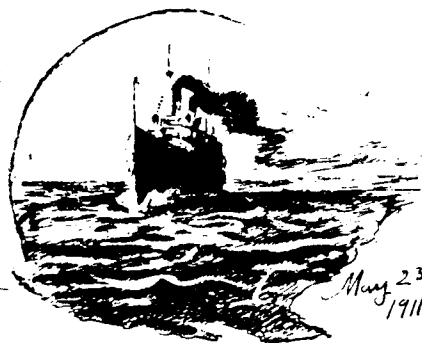
-As I am now-

Yours Truly
C.M. Russell

427-81-13

"As I Am Now", signed Y ours
Truly, C.M.Russell w/skull
ink wash/no date C.M.Russell
8" x 10"

\$ 12,000.00



Friend Bill

I have covered
 the country since I left home
 am now in St. Louis
 I left New York about ten days
 ago too. a steamer to Savannah
 Georgia. He wither was here our all
 the great eat stayed
 I don't think Bill that the
 old Atlantic has changed
 much since Chris Colombo
 crossed.

It looks like the books
 on real estate men couldnt
 do much with her

baring a fine patcher on
 his edges. She still clings
 to the fish

on my way to New York
 I saw our old friend George
 Bondington has working in
 a Minneapolis bank

I asked him with all his
 money around if he wasnt
 tempted to grab a
 bundle and see how far he could
 get
 he kinder smiled and said
 the cage they kept him in
 had nothing more valuable
 than pen and ink and as
 the ink has no alcohol in
 it has plum harmless.
 In looks he hasent changed
 much his mane has turned
 gone on as he has grown
 his rarer look bigger
 He still takes a light one
 but he dont so after it like
 he did in the good old days

In St Paul I run on to
 old Dad you remember
 the little man that worked
 for Theo Gibson.

We hadnt more than shook
 hands till he whispered
 something in my ear

It was a quick touch Bill
 an I looked but I never
 legndge a lot to his
 kind as I know
 if I

old Dad would run across
 if he lead to make a
 deal to get it

well Bill as I expect to see you
 soon I will close

with regards to your self
 in the bunch
 your friend

C.M. Russell

427-81-15

"Friend Bill" May 23, 1911 illus.

w/c letter 3 pgs. C.M. Russell

9" x 5 1/2"

\$20,000.00

Friend Bill Explorers tell us that esqumo lives in an Egielow a house made of snow and as they have no fuel they allow the dogs to sleep in the passageway or hall and the animal heat is kind of for his heater unless their house quite comfortable



The Native Sons build a bungalow and judging from the one I've camped in it's an Egielow crossed with an old house. my bungalow like the Esquma has a hall or passageway no fuel unless the Esquma holds Edge on me I just got no dogs

With best wishes

Your friend
E. M. Russell



in at 10
Pasadena
Cal 1920

427-81-14

"Friend Bill, Pasadena, Calif."

April 10, 1920 illus w/c cards

2 ea 54 x 54

\$16,000.00

Bill Ramer
Silver Dollar
Great Falls
Montana



Don't think I'm crippled Bill I took in Bill
back the other day in this in a look worn wagon
I'm riding judging from picture got the
all right
the coach is pretty quiet most of the Malheur
have you north of here that makes it a reason for
me so I cut my next short

There is a couple of hotels here in size in shape
that resemble Sun room square cattle
they only charge \$70 a day for room with a bath
I hope you furnish your own towels very reasonable
God bless you the owner so I took my bath then
the hotel grub is fair but don't compare with
the table that Bill made set up at last Tuesday
night

I ain't saying nothing again the Rammer but word
will never run another feed farm. He likes that and
is dear to Shelby where he at his last. No more
ever get the can forget it

With best wishes to all friends

Your friend

C.M. Russell

427-81-18

"Don't Think I'm Crippled Bill"

April 2, 1913 illus. letter &

envel. ink C.M. Russell

11½" x 8 3/4" 2 pages \$11,000.00

Bill Ramer
Silver Dollar
Great Falls
Mont



Lake McDonald Sept 14 1918

Friend Bill we received all the
good things all right and we certainly liked them
we were left all the things a nice one
and had some home very one of them
were very good and then I thought was
some of the best and I think I'll try it
I think I'll try it

So that we could be sure of it I think I'll try it

the things I'll try it

I'll try it

I'll try it

I'll try it

I'll try it

I'll try it

I'll try it

I'll try it

I'll try it

I'll try it

I'll try it

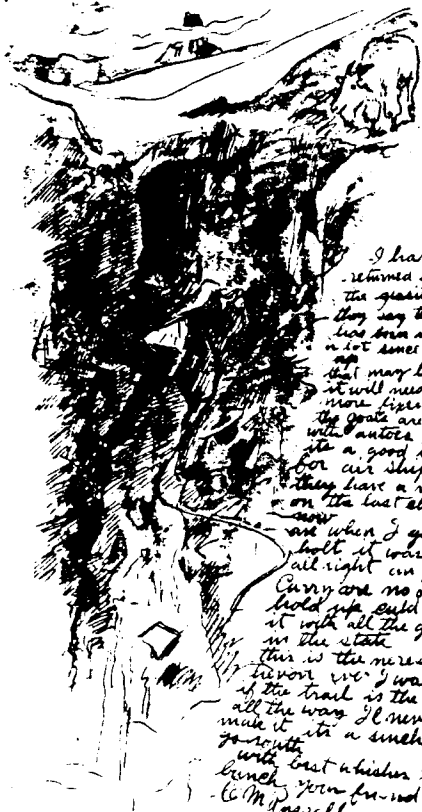
427-81-19

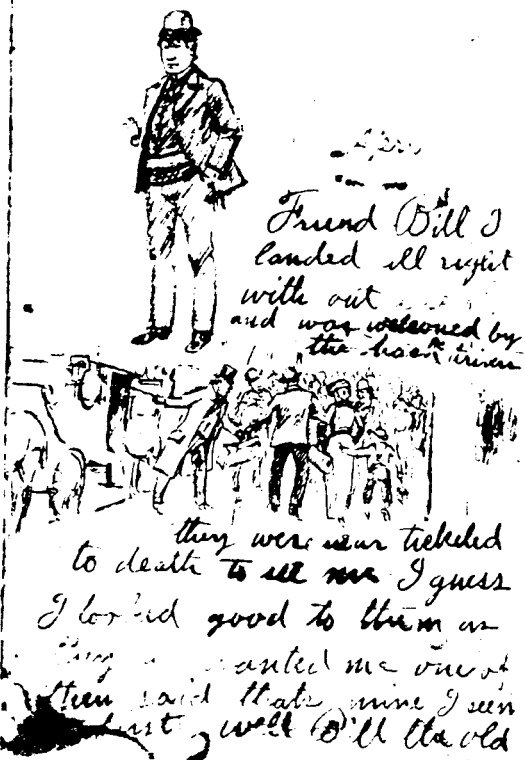
"Lake McDonald, Friend Bill"

September 14, 1918 illus.w/c/

letter & envel. C.M. Russell

14½" x 8" \$25,000.00





town has changed a lot since I was here last but the smoke is still here I have a good time visiting my relations in taking in the shows I was out in the country this morning it is very pretty ~~every~~ every thing green and all the fruit trees in blossom and mocking birds singing it is very different than our old mountains and places but for a steady thing give me some well ~~Bill~~ I can't think more to

will close with regards
Love myself and wife
your friend
C.M. Russell
I received the paper
and am much obliged

427-81-21

"Friend Bill April 24, 1901
illus. letter 3 pages & illus.
envel. C.M. Russell 7" x 11"

\$6,000.00





Bill Vance
Silver Lollar
Great Falls
Montana
U.S.A

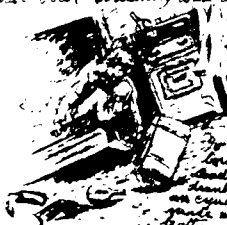


Add. Love Galleries
34 New Bond St
WALDORF HOTEL
ALDWYCH, W.C.
April 4 1914



Friend Bill here
I am in dear old London
in the big snap of hold ups
about the only difference I can
see the ~~the~~ stick up men
says thanks but only when you
looked plenty
but no matter how small in London
the hold ups says the ~~the~~ you see

I don't know whether I'm a for - not
but I'm sure I am for it
I had such a rough trip over
that every thing seems to real get
that boat certainly was resented



She has
lovely
but they
still
every thing
good
in her
room
for me I wish
London as deep
London with
London changes
on course that
gave me full
leather
it is very as
has
I do this I can so
weave and roll some it times but it was
never caused by me
well Bill I tell more soon I get back
but regards to you
I will if you see
I'm love him
or heard
C.M. Russell

Hotel. Bill that I do this I can so
weave and roll some it times but it was
never caused by me
well Bill I tell more soon I get back
but regards to you
I will if you see
I'm love him
or heard
C.M. Russell

427-81-20

"Friend Bill" April 4, 1914 illus
w/c letter & envel. C.M. Russell
8" x 10"

\$17,500.00



427-81-22

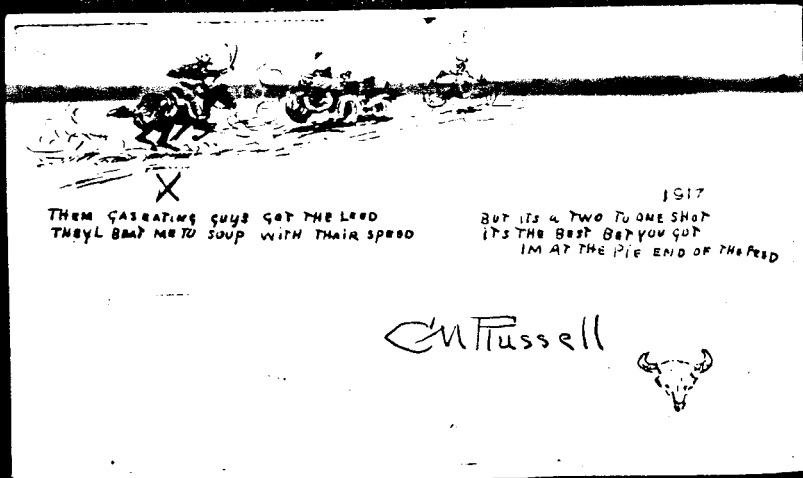
"Clark Overlooking the Great Falls", 1906 signed CMR w/skull
Ink C.M. Russell 5½" x 7 3/4"

\$12,000.00

427-81-23

"Entertainment Committee BPOElks
Reply Postcard" illus. w/c signed
C.M. Russell w/skull 3¼"x5½"

\$7,500.00





427-81-24

"I Rode Him" illus. w/c with
pencil drawing on reverse side

~~One Silver Dollar (Bar)~~

C.M. Russell 14" x 10½"

\$40,000.00



427-81-25

Silver Dollar Philips & Rance,
Great Falls, Montana "The Big

Stack Is Our Land Mark" 1908

CMR w/skull 9" x 13½"

\$50,000.00

C.M. Russell
The Cowboy Artist



To Bill Rance
from C.M. Russell



I hope when you look
at this sketch it will not give you a shock
for we've both been there many a time
when we roomed in the Canary Block. --

427-81-26

Pen sketches by C.M. Russell,
The Cowboy Artist, published by
W.T. Ridgley "To Bill Rance from
C.M. Russell, w/skull 1899, front
cover with 2 ea pen & ink illus.

\$30,000.00

