

MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
FINANCE AND CLAIMS COMMITTEE  
MONTANA STATE SENATE

APRIL 25, 1985

The 27th meeting of the Senate Finance and Claims Committee was called to order on the above date in Room 108 of the State Capitol to hear House Bill 961. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pat Regan.

ROLL CALL: All members were present with the exception of Senator Story who was excused.

CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE BILL 961: Representative Francis Bardanouve with profuse apologies of embarrassment at the lateness, etc., said this would be an option to purchase a Russell Collection. This is a collection of Russell's and one oil painting and many fine letters with drawings on them. It is a private collection that we know of in Montana. They have to sell it. This will probably be sold before the 1987 Legislature meets.

Representative Bardanouve went into the history of the painting that was purchased from the Montana Club some years ago and how the value of this painting has increased. He said he felt that would also happen with this collection. He said this bill was reduced to \$300,000 general fund money and put \$100,000 and \$150,000 as a loan to be paid back. He felt this would be large enough for them to take care of it. A great part of this is citizen participation.

PROPOSERS FOR HOUSE BILL 961:

Dr. Robert Archibald, Director, Montana Historical Society: Said over the past 30 years we have acquired many of the collections. In 1950 the McKay collection----using a state appropriation and donations. The Mint collection was lost and a number of years ago the appropriation and solicitation to acquire that one, "When the Land Belonged to God". \$150,000 is a reasonable amount and I think it will be forth coming. In the early 50's the Historical collection-----for in the neighborhood of \$60,000. That collection is now worth around \$13 million to \$15 million. I think as an asset, it is a good investment. If any art symbolizes Montana and is a part of Montana, it is Russell's.

Exhibit 1 was submitted which was composed of a letter from Robert F. Morgan, Artist Consultant, and pictures of the collection.

Brenda Schye, Montana Arts Advocacy, said they are in strong support of this bill. I would have to express some concern at the present time that is being set by earmarking the Cultural and Aesthetic grants for the purchase of this collection. I would hope that does not start a trend.

Senator Manning, Great Falls spoke as a proponents to the bill. He said I represent Senate District 18. Ever since I was about (demonstrated a heighth) that high I have been viewing Charlie Russell art. I would hate to have this go to some other state. Other states are paying a lot of money for it. Let's keep him and his art in the state.

Chris Christiaens, senator, said he would stand in support of this project with one comment. If there is a C. M. Russell auction, they would probably bring 2 or 3 times as much as that each year. I would urge your support.

There were no further proponents, no opponents and Senator Regan asked if there were questions from the Committee.

Senator Jacobson: \$150,000 general fund, \$150,000 Cultural and Aesthetic.

Representative Bardanouve: That is what was put on in the House.

Senator Jacobson: How do we borrow from them?

Representative Bardanouve: You make a loan from general fund and it is paid back by the C and A.

Senator Hims1: Why was this not run through the regular process? It is dated January 1.

Representative Bardanouve: Day by Day, Month by Month, I was pushing the subcommittee and members of the House. We did not know, we had terrible things to do to balance the budget. For me to bring in this bill-----I could have been highly criticized to do it before the budget was out. I could have been accused of putting art on the backs of the welfare people. We could have written it into HB 500, but it is an unethical way to get it in the bill. I don't think it was right to bring an art bill in when we are trying to balance and budget. The Senate says we have a comfortable balance and that is why I brought it in now.

Senator Regan: Just had one appraisal on this?

Representative Bardanouve: Three official appraisals. The man who had the art show a year ago, he appraised it and two other approved appraisals made. This is in the interim.

Senator Regan: We got "When the Land Belonged to God". Since then it has appreciated in value. It seems to me that for only one picture and some letters, etc., this seems very high.

Senator Aklestad: First, a question. The donation was how much?

Representative Bardanouve: \$45,000 promised.

Senator Aklestad: How much other to be budgeted?

Representative Bardanouve: \$150,000 general fund.

Senator Aklestad: If we want to go along with your reason for not putting it in until such a date. I think you should have seen how HB 500 was and then come in to try to fund their project there. You never tried to get it into one of the other bills? LRP where we showed ranches, barns, etc?

Representative Bardanouve: No, I don't think it was. The Arts Council and I thought it was an unethical way of getting the bill into the appropriation committee. It puts pressure of the committee when it is introduced by the chairman of that committee.

Senator Aklestad: I respect your integrity. I would have appreciated if more if it had come through the process. This disturbs me more. I signed on bills that take people off welfare and I was not very happy about that.

Senator Christiaens: Was this project presented to the Arts Council to work it?

Dr. Robert Archibald: I did not know about it and I did not feel it was proper for another state agency to pressure the funds that would be distributed around the state.

Senator Christiaens: I have been a member and was told consistently that it was around. I was surprised when it was not there. I had gone to Senator Fuller at least 5 times and no one could find it.

Representative Bardanouve: I guess the reason for that is that it was in the bottom of my files.

Senator Smith: I wasn't chastising Representative Bardanouve at all. This is the 9th session and it is the first time I ever saw something like this. If the present owners are close to bankruptcy they must have looked at other places to sell it. (Representative Bardanouve mentioned a Senator "chewing him out" for waiting so long to put in a bill.)

Dr. Robert Archibald: All the members of the appraisal were between \$482,000 and \$508,000. Basically, the figure of \$482,000

is the low appraisal. Those are the best judgements in the business at the moment. Our experience in watching the value of art, the more speculative art is the more likely it is to fluctuate. The others may fluctuate but the ones for Russell have remained pretty stable.

Representative Bardanouve: The people in the Elks Club would like to keep the art work in Montana.

Senator Smith: You pass if you don't collect?

Dr. Robert Archibald: The total has to be reached. If we don't raise the balance there is no deal. I have a committment from a private individual for \$45,000.

Senator Haffey: The \$45,000 you have a committment. Add those together then you come up with the rest.

Representative Bardanouve said he had nothing more to add in closing.

Senator Story: After paying \$400,000 for a copy for the Senate they have been coming in with charts and handouts, and other things. I think we should get a percentage cut.

DISPOSITION OF HOUSE BILL 961: MOTION by Senator Manning that House Bill 961 be concurred in.

Voted and passed, 9-6. Senator Christiaens will carry the bill.

The meeting was adjourned.

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Senator Pat Regan, Chairman

Senate Finance and Claims  
April 25, 1985  
Page 4

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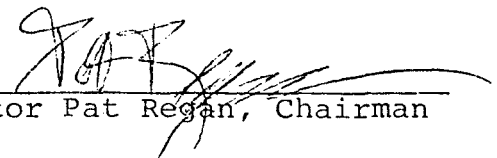
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\_\_\_\_\_  
Senator Pat Regan, Chairman

ROLL CALL

SENATE FINANCE AND CLAIMS COMMITTEE

49th LEGISLATIVE SESSION - - 185

Date 4-25

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
SENATOR REGAN	✓		
SENATOR HAFTEY	✓		
SENATOR JACOBSON	✓		
SENATOR AKLESTAD	✓		
SENATOR HAMMOND	✓		
SENATOR LANE	✓		
SENATOR CHRISTIAENS	✓		
SENATOR GAGE	✓		
SENATOR HIMSL	✓		
SENATOR STIMATZ	✓		
SENATOR BOYLAN	✓		
SENATOR STORY	✓		
SENATOR SMITH	✓		
SENATOR MANNING (Dick)	✓		
SENATOR BENGTON	✓		
SENATOR KEATING			

# STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

April 25

19 85

MR. PRESIDENT

We, your committee on Finance and Claims

having had under consideration House Bill 961

No.

Introduced bill reading copy ( white )  
color

**RUSSELL COLLECTION PURCHASE**

**BARDANOUVE (Christiaens**

Respectfully report as follows: That House Bill

No. 961

BE CONCURRED IN

XXXXXX  
XXXXXX

XXXXXXXXXX  
DO NOT PASS

**SENATOR REGAN**

Chairman.

## SENATE COMMITTEE

FINANCE AND CLAIMS

## VOTING RECORD

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Bill No. \_\_\_\_\_

Time 6:01

Name	YES	NO	ABSENT	EXCUSED
Senator Haffey	✓			
Senator Jacobson	✓			
Senator Aklestad		✓		
Senator Hammond	✓			
Senator Lane	✓			
Senator Christiaens	✓			
Senator Gage		✓		
Senator Himsl		✓		
Senator Stimatz	✓			
Senator Boylan	✓			
Senator Story		✓		
Senator Smith		✓		
Senator Manning (Dick)	✓			
Senator Bengtson		✓		
Senator Keating			✓	
Senator Regan	✓			

Sylvia Kinsey  
Secretary

Senator Regan  
Chairman

Motion: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



157,000 D. F

15. A. A. C

45,000

137,500

CHARLES M. RUSSELL COLLECTION

B.P.O. ELKS LODGE

GREAT FALLS, MONTANA

191 *James*



*[Handwritten signature]*

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,

*[Handwritten signature]*  
Robert F. Morgan  
Artist/Consultant

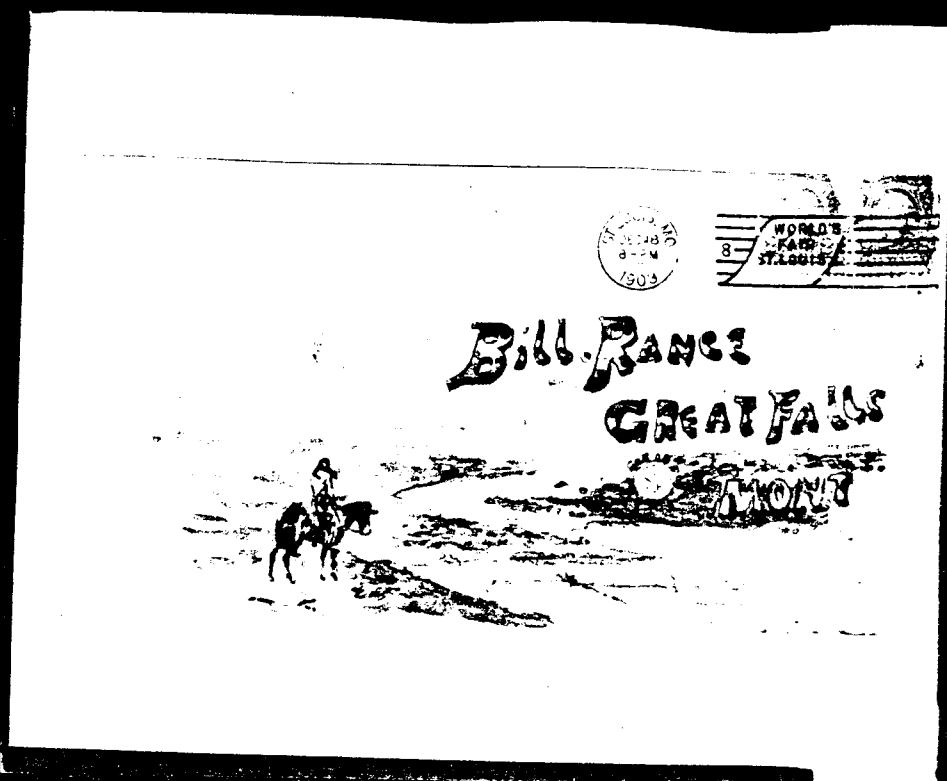


427-74-1

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



427-81-2

"Bill Rance, Great Falls",

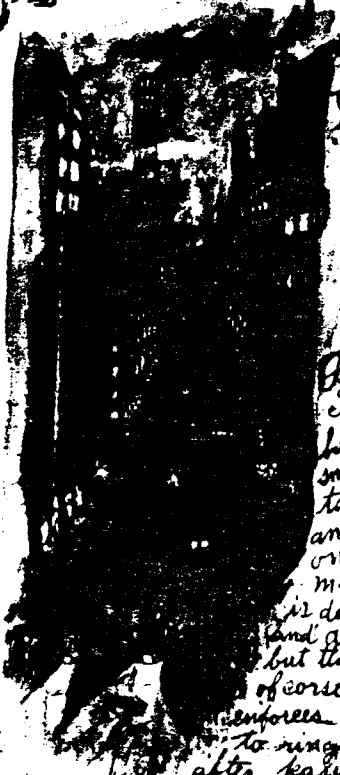
December 18, 1903, Illustrated  
letter w/c envel. Bill. Rance  
4 1/2" x 8 3/8"

\$15,000.00



55-1055-1000 12 2

Dec 17th



Friend Bill  
I am still  
here in the  
smoke of the  
tall trees  
an about the  
on my exit  
ment I 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 betwene 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 wondered if  
the man that bought him  
is still living



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

here  
wishing  
you and all  
my friends  
a Merry  
X Mas



your friend  
C. Russell

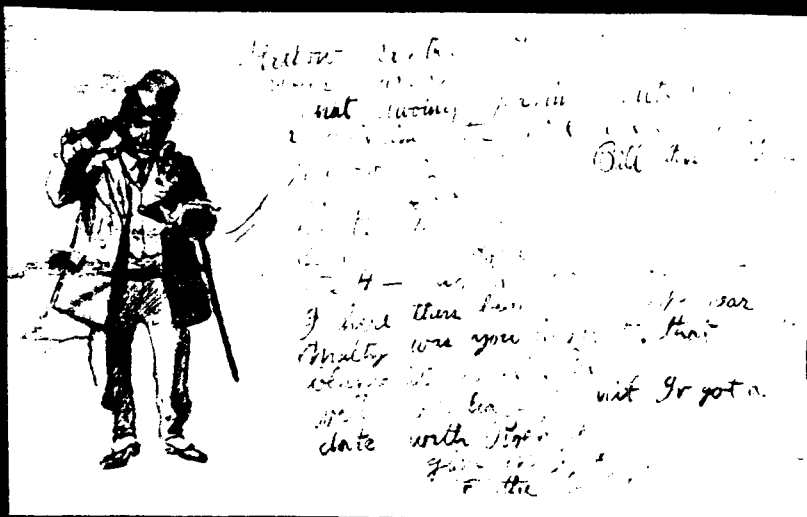
well be home  
in about  
three weeks



427-31-4

"Friend Bill" December 17, 1903  
illus. w/c letter 3 pgs  
C.M. Russell 3" x 5" (3)

\$30,000.00



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  
but I heard it was a man up on the  
some name that mixed up with  
a lady grizzly on they pulled  
the genuine grizzly bear dance  
they say the man wasnt strong  
on round dance but he confident  
regard a lady in you  
know every body's doing  
it on I guess before  
the dance closed he was  
putty near every one had done it  
to him the one that arrived after the  
ball the first man, a bit like a son  
but things a bear couldnt  
well Bill 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  
To see the time these things would  
have worried me some but now  
I'm Old Friend Bill Pance and  
all these are more to me I don't  
think he was ever further south  
than Panama this proves that we  
don't have to travel to see the wonders  
of the world  
But this is shown the home of it  
drawing a picture of flying things  
it is wonderful but I wouldn't  
draw any more things to send you  
I'll be glad to see you in a  
few days with regards to yourself  
and the family

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 3" x 5"

\$12,500.00





427-81-12

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

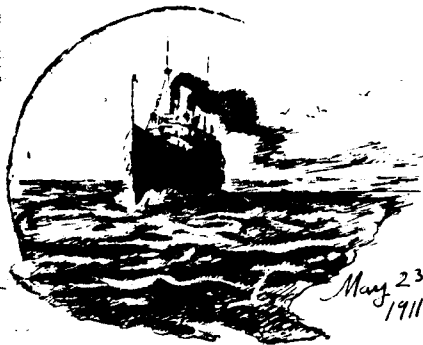
\$12,000.00



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. The weather was fine all  
the way. I eat stayed  
I don't think Bill that the  
old Atlantic has changed  
much since Chris Colombo  
crossed.

It looks like the bookish  
in real estate men couldn't  
do much with her

baring a fine patch on  
her edges she still clings  
to the fish

on my way to New York

I saw our old friend George  
Ondington 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.

His looks he hasnt changed  
much his mane has turned  
gray and 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 an 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  
and I looked but I never  
legged a let go to him  
kind as I know  
if I was up against it  
old Dad if he would come across  
to make a  
hole to get it



well Bill as I expect to see you  
soon I will close  
with regards to yourself  
and 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 5½"

\$20,000.00

Friend Bill Explorers tell us that cagmo lives in an Egelow a house made of 3 rows. And as they have no back they allow the dogs to sleep in the passageway or hall and the animal least is kind of fir his heater unless there house quite comfortable



The Native Sons build a bungalow and judging from the one I've camped in it's an Egelow crossed with an old house. my bungalow like the Egelow has a hall or passageway for food where the cagmo holds Ridge on one I aint got no dogs



With best wishes  
Your friend  
O. McRae

April 10  
1920  
Pasadena  
Cal

427-81-14

"Friend Bill, Pasadena, Calif."

April 10, 1920 illus w/c cards

2 ea 3 1/4" x 5 1/4"

\$16,000.00

LCM. 1. 11

11½" x 8 3/4" 2 pages \$11,000.00

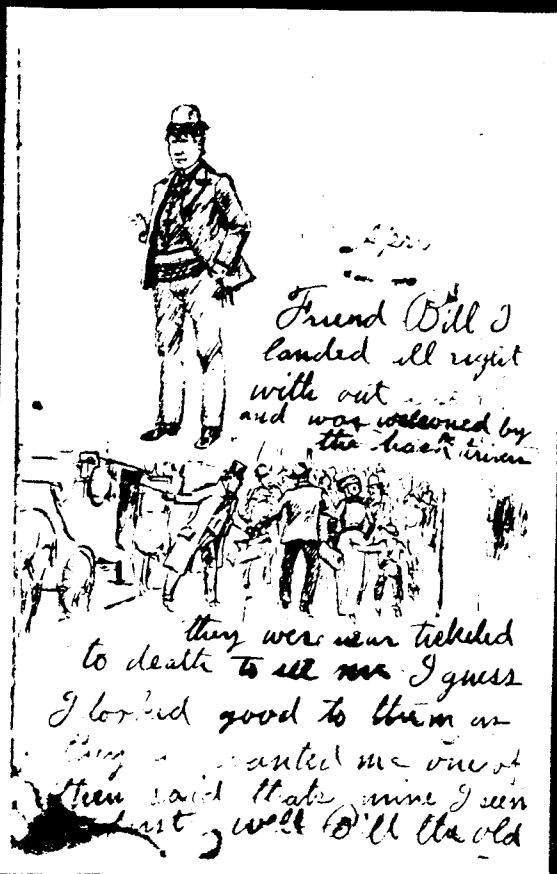
—like the Donalds

Sept 14, 1917

with just reference to you and  
the much more recent

\$25,000.00

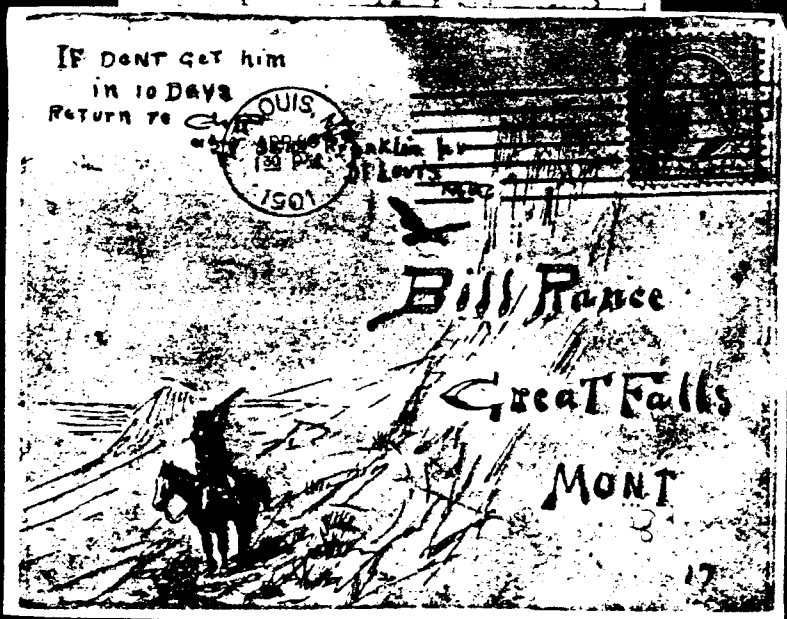




town has changed a  
lot since I was here last  
but the sun is still  
here I have  
a good time visiting my  
relations and taking in  
the shows I was out  
in the country this  
morning it is very  
pretty every every thing  
green and all the fruit  
trees in blossom and  
mocking birds singing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

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

427-81-21  
"Friend Bill April 24, 1901  
illus. letter 3 pages & illus.  
envel. C.M. Russell 7" x 4 1/2"  
\$6,000.00







427-81-22

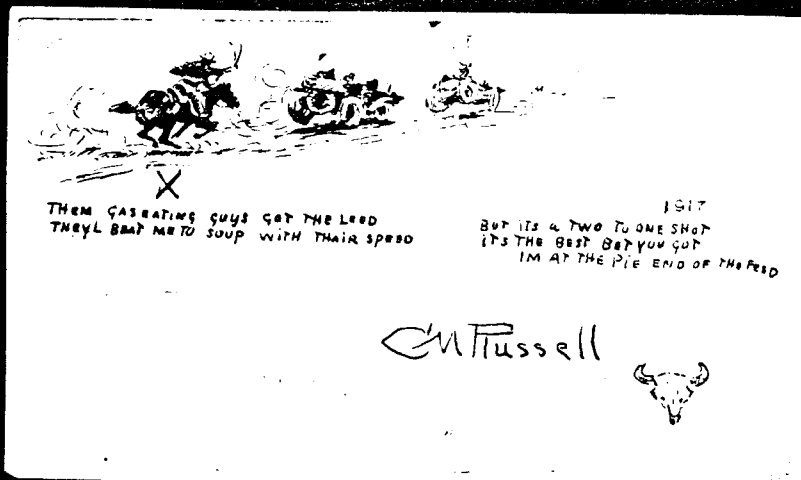
"Clark Overlooking the Great Falls", 1906 signed CMR w/skull  
Ink C.M. Russell 5½" x 7 3/4"

\$12,000.00

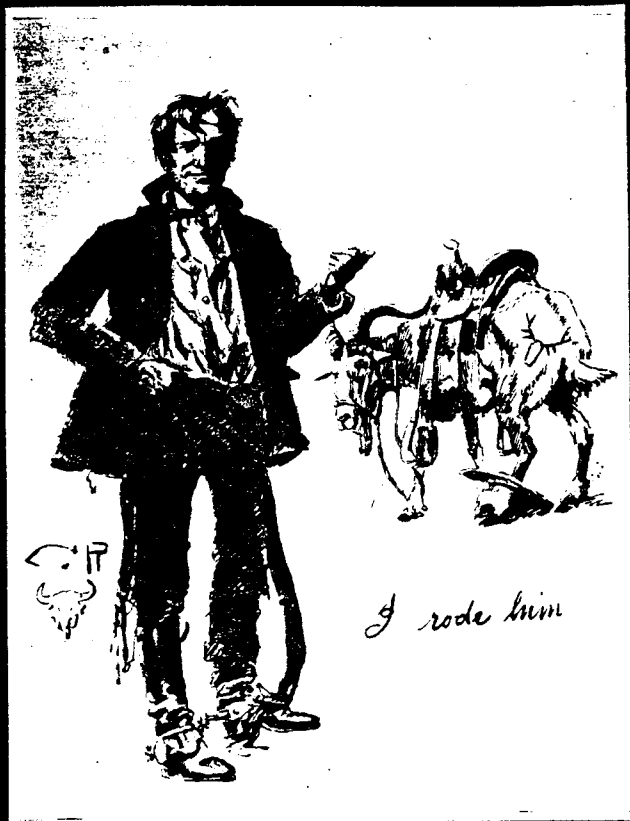
427-81-23

"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  
for Silver Dollar (Bar)

C.M. Russell 14" x 10½"

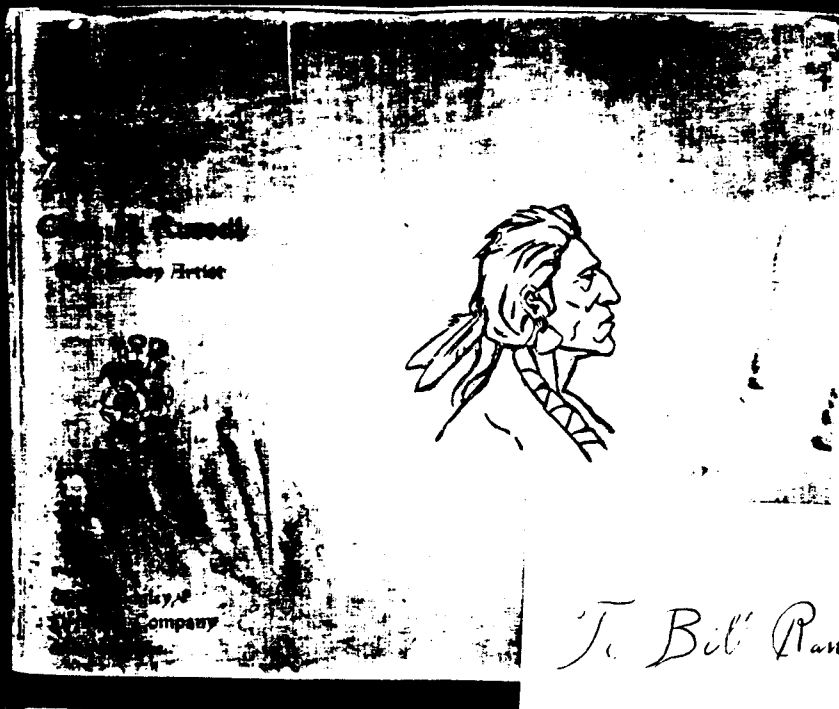
\$40,000.00



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



To Bill Rance  
from C.M. Russell



I hope when you look  
at this sketch it will not hurt modesty much  
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