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Tokyo, 4 Dec 46.

SUBJECT :

TO :

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt -

Although the stamp magazines arrive late over here in Japan and I was not able to get in on the Harmer Auction of President Roosevelt's stamp collection, I was fortunate in securing a cover and a few stamps from dealers who attended the auction.

There has been a great deal of criticism in the philatelic and general press about the auctioning of the collection - some from experts and dealers who resented presentations of die proofs, stamps, etc. to the President by our and other governmental officials etc, and some from those who thought the accumulation of America's most famous and beloved philatelist should have been preserved intact in a museum or at Hyde Park.

Let me say, as an ordinary, run-of-the-mill American collector, that I am dead sure that our dear old President, since there were apparently no prospects of any of his children keeping the collection up to date as ardent philatelists, would not have liked his collection to have become a dead museum piece - inaccessible

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to the vast majority of ordinary American collectors like the writer. I am quite sure that he would have been delighted to see it dispersed over the whole United States so that cherished treasures from it, like the pieces I have obtained, would be proudly displayed by fellow American philatelists for the delight of future generations.

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For our President was not an expert, nor a dealer, nor a great specialist. In fact, some of the great specialists and "high brow" philatelists looked with horror at news reels or pictures of President Roosevelt working with his collection — he didn't handle his stamps and accessories like they imagined the well groomed philatelist should.

No, the President was just an ordinary American kid collector at heart. He loved his stamps, found relaxation in them, collected for the sheer love of collecting and not for profit or value. The items I have are a bit damaged - not fit to put in the album of a discriminating philatelist - but there they are, neatly + lovingly hinged down to the quadrille album page clipping for the admiration and enjoyment of a great collector who cherished them.

It's a refreshing feeling to know that

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the great man never lost the common touch so far as his stamps were concerned, and it affords a lot of good ammunition for the rest of us who collect for the sheer love of collecting and not for the stuffy feeling of having the best centered copy of an expensive classic stamp to crow about.

Well, anyway, I just wanted you to know that no finer tribute could be paid to Franklin D. Roosevelt the philatelist than to permit ordinary American collectors, everywhere, to have access to his beloved collection and to prize a few items from it as real philatelic treasures for themselves and their friends in kindly remembrance of our greatest and most beloved collector.

Sincerely yours,

Bernie Conde'