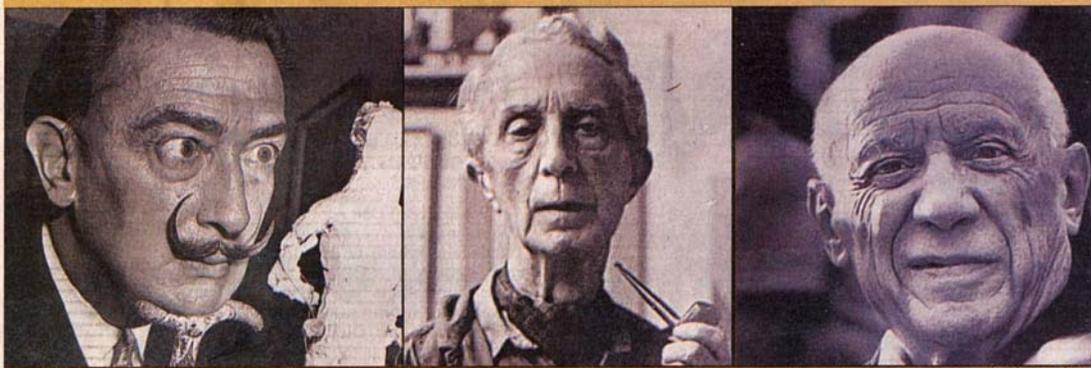
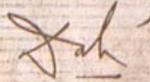


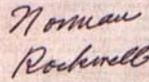
BURIED TREASURE: Six volumes of autographs and memorabilia from renowned artists and musicians arrived in the state Treasurer's Office as abandoned property. After some sleuthing, the state reunited the collection with its owner.



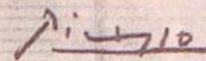
Associated Press photos



Salvador Dali
Spanish painter
1904-1989

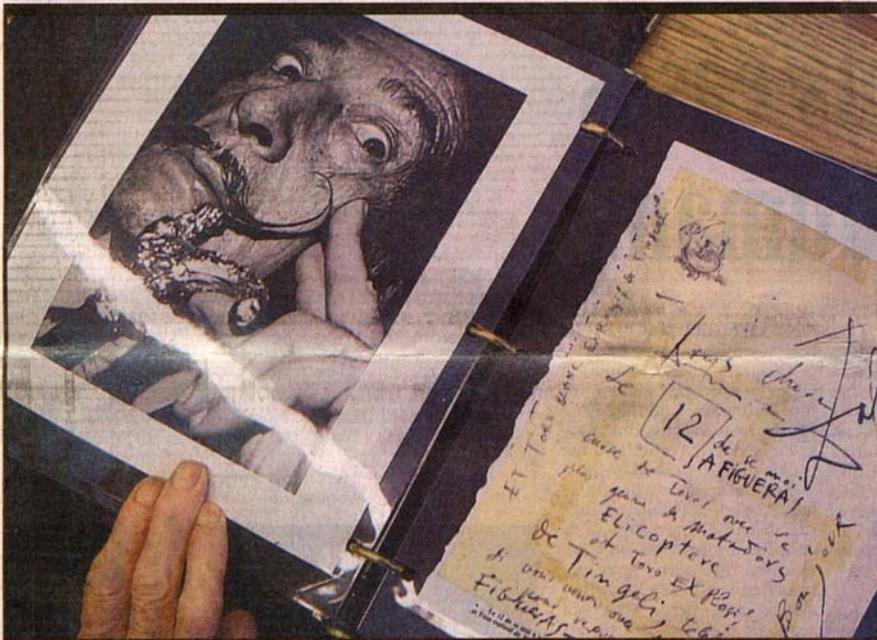


Norman Rockwell
American illustrator
1894-1978



Pablo Picasso
Spanish painter
1881-1973

LOST AND FOUND



JERRY SWOPE, for the Free Press

A family member of F.C. Schang looks at a photograph and original correspondence from artist Salvador Dali in a scrapbook that was recently returned to her family by the Vermont Treasury Department.

A sampling of famous autographs collected by F.C. Schang:

Alexander Calder
American artist
1898-1976

Mary Cassatt
American artist
1845-1926

Georgia O'Keeffe
American artist
1887-1986

Paul Cezanne
French painter
1839-1906

Jean Baptiste Camille Corot
French artist
1796-1875

Henri Matisse
French artist
1869-1954

Ira Gershwin
American lyricist
1896-1983

Johannes Brahms
German composer
1833-1897

See News Article Below

Treasure trove of autographs turns up at state offices

Published: Thursday, November 17, 2005

By Leslie Wright

Free Press Staff Writer

Flipping through the plastic-covered scrapbook pages was like peering through a keyhole of a great museum of Western art and music of the past two centuries. Glimpses of iconic names in the arts flashed past. Salvador Dali. Paul Klee. Paul Cezanne. Grandma Moses.

Giant musicians and composers were there too: Bela Bartok and Ira Gershwin and Johannes Brahms.

Dali scratched out a note in a frenetic, angular script. Grandma Moses thanked a "dear friend" for a tube of paint and apologized for not writing sooner. She had been ill, she explained in tidy cursive.

This treasure trove of letters, calling cards, post cards and autographs fell into the hands of the state Treasurer's Office in June 2004 as abandoned property. Last winter, the state started sleuthing to find the owner.

The collection ranks as one of the more unique abandoned property finds the state has come across, Treasurer Jeb Spaulding said.

It's not unusual for the state to possess unclaimed property. The state is holding \$40 million worth of property waiting to be matched to an owner, Spaulding said.

Lost property is listed on the state's Web site and printed in a newspaper insert the state distributes annually. Each year the state reunites millions of dollars with owners. For the fiscal year ended June 30, \$6.5 million was paid to 7,828 claimants. Lost property typically includes insurance policies, pay checks, stocks, tax refunds and bank certificates; some comes to the state in cash, Spaulding said.

The autograph scrapbooks were so unusual -- and potentially valuable -- that the state searched for the owner.

"It's impractical to think you could do that with every \$25 piece of property, but with this particular piece of property, it was obvious it was something special," Spaulding said.

With help from a town clerk and the Internet, the state was able to track down the owner, who was living out of state. The owner wishes to remain anonymous. The scrapbooks were kept at a

bank in Woodstock for more than a decade. They were forgotten when the owner moved and were overlooked as the bank merged several times.

The scrapbooks were assembled by the late F.C. Schang, who managed musicians, including the Trapp Family Singers of Stowe. He worked his way up to become president of Columbia Artists Management Inc. He published several of his collections, including "Prima Donnas: Visiting Cards of Celebrities," along with similar books of autographs from violinists, painters and pianists.

The value of the entire scrapbook collection is believed to be about \$100,000, according to the owner's son, who also wishes to remain anonymous.

Many of the artists and musicians in the Schang collection are actively collected today, said Jake Jacobs, catalog coordinator for Alexander Autographs, an auction house in Cos Cob, Conn.

The value of documents, such as letters, depends on their contents. A letter that mentions a specific painting or period or a relationship with another artist is more valuable than a mundane, everyday letter, Jacobs said.

The Grandma Moses letter could be worth about \$300 or more depending on the content, he said.

Collectors have to be careful that they are getting authentic signatures. For example, former President Ronald Reagan had his mother sign photographs. The Beatles often signed for one another, Jacobs said.

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Additional Pictures from the State Treasurer's Office



