

# Condition Assessment Project

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Preserving Archival Materials

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**Item Number:** PC-25-1 (Seminole tourist doll)



**Description:** Handmade doll from the Seminole Tribe of Florida wearing traditional Seminole costume including patchwork skirt, layered shawl, and glass bead necklaces.

**Date:** Circa 1940's based on the quality and amount of patchwork done on the costume. Later examples use mass produced trim and little to no patchwork.

**Primary Support:** Palmetto fibers

**Media:** Cotton fabric, glass beads

**Size:** 7 inches tall

**Condition:** Good considering it was made for the tourist market. Missing an earring. Some loose threads on shawl.

**Preservation Action:** Would consult a textile conservationist about cleaning and steaming to revitalize the fabric. Store in an acid free, lignin free box padded with archival tissue. Recommend to gently wrap the palmetto fiber base under the skirt with tissue to prevent

possible discoloration of the fabric. Store in controlled environment of 65-70 degrees F and 45-50% RH.

**Item Number:** PC-03-40 (James Joyce recording)



**Description:** Sound recording of James Joyce reading “*Anna Livia Plurabelle*”

**Date:** 1929, Orthological Institute.

**Primary Support:** Shellac

**Media:** 78 RPM audio disk

**Size:** 12-inch disk

**Condition:** Excellent

**Preservation Action:** Needs cleaning from minor dust. Store in archival record sleeve, upright, tightly snug with other records to prevent warping. Store in controlled environment of 40-54 degrees F and 30-50% RH. If the institution has the means to do so, create a digitized copy of the recording for access.

**Item Number:** PC-01-3 (Rural Scene with stone bridge – glass plate negative)



**Description:** Glass plate negative depicting an arched stone bridge with a man fishing and a horse-drawn carriage with two women, one young woman driving the carriage and the other leaning back looking at the camera.

**Date:** Circa 1870's based on the hats worn by the women as well as the photographic process.

**Primary Support:** Glass

**Media:** Wet collodion process (based on visible fingerprints on the left edge and lower left corner).

**Size:** 4 inches x 5 inches

**Condition:** Good. The glass plate has minor chip on the lower right corner. Some chipping on the edges of the emulsion. Surface scratches.

**Preservation Action:** Clean the non-emulsion side of the plate. Store upright in acid free, lignan free, four-flap envelope with the emulsion side down. Controlled environment at 65 degrees F and 30-40% RH. Create a high-resolution digital copy for access.

**Item Number:** PC-01-4 (Double Daguerreotype of couple)



**Description:** Double Daguerreotype presumably of a husband and wife in a leather case.

**Date:** Circa 1850's based on the female sitter's clothing particularly the bell sleeves and her hair style. Men's fashion was relatively unchanged from the 1840's to the 1850's but facial hair became trendy in the 1850's (male sitter has a goatee).

**Primary Support:** Copper plate coated in silver

**Media:** Daguerreotype

**Size:** Closed 3 1/8 inches x 3 1/2 inches x 1/2 inches. Open 6 1/4 inches x 3 1/2 inches x 1/4 inches

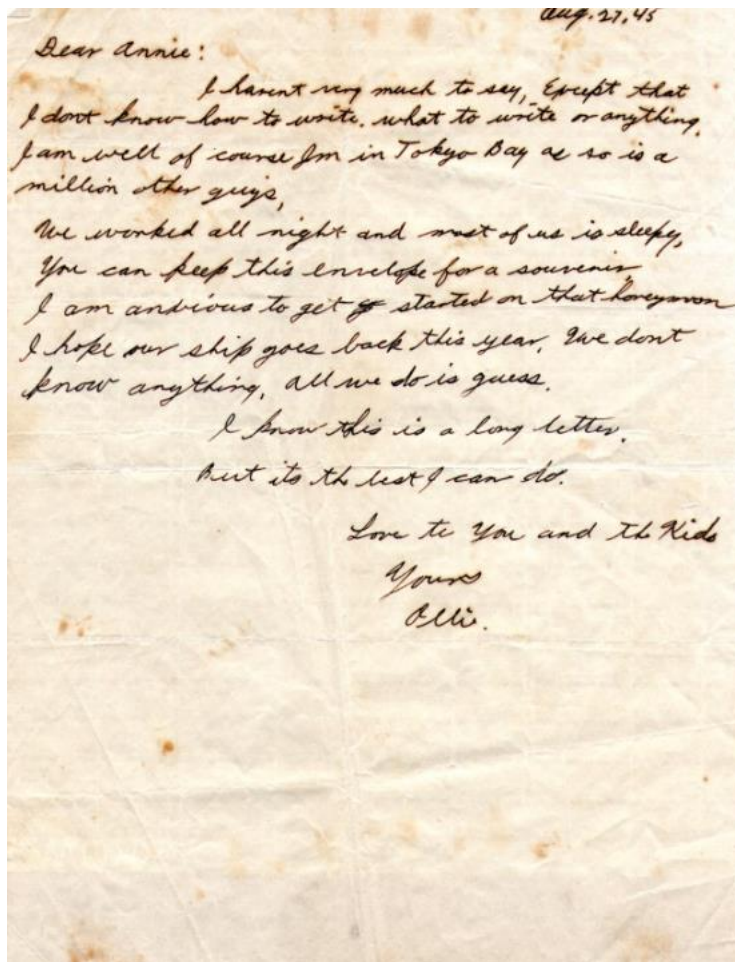
**Condition:** Images: Good. Small white specs under the glass could be a sign of glass degradation.

Case: Fair. Case spine has separated, and the leather has minor wear but signs of drying.

**Preservation Action:** Would seek advice from a conservationist about cleaning the glass and the glass degradation. Store upright in an acid free, lignan free box to mitigate any further damage from glass particles settling on the images. Limit light exposure. Controlled environment at 65 degrees F and 30-40% RH. Create a high-resolution digital copy for access.



**Item Number:** PC-95-12 (Letter from a WWII sailor)



Aug. 27, 45

Dear Annie:

I haven't very much to say, except that I don't know how to write, what to write or anything. I am well of course I'm in Tokyo Bay as so is a million other guys,

We worked all night and most of us is sleepy, You can keep this envelope for a souvenir I am anxious to get ~~off~~ started on that here soon I hope our ship goes back this year. We don't know anything, all we do is guess.

I know this is a long letter, but its the best I can do.

Love to You and the Kids

Yours

Ollie.

**Description:** A letter from Oliver Elsworth Rauenzahn, a sailor aboard the USS Wilkes-Barre in Tokyo Bay, to his wife Anna Mary Yetto during WWII.

**Date:** 27 August 1945

**Primary Support:** Paper (watermark reads "Arrow Flight," have not been able to find who the manufacturer was)

**Media:** Ink on paper

**Size:** 7 ¼ inches x 9 ½ inches

**Condition:** Good. Has staining throughout document and slight ink bleed on the first paragraph.

**Preservation Action:** Place in a polyester sleeve for safe handling and store in controlled environment 65 – 70 degrees and 45-50% RH.

**Item Number:** PC-94-1 (Felix O. C. Darley's illustration of *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*)



**Description:** Illustration of the headless horseman chasing Ichabod Crane (Plate 6 of 6). Illustrations of the Legend of Sleepy Hollow, Designed and Etched by Felix O.C. Darley for the Members of the American Art Union. Plates printed by Sarony & Major (New York, NY)

**Date:** 1850

**Primary Support:** Paper

**Media:** Lithograph

**Size:** 11 inches x 14 inches

**Condition:** Very good. Has minor staining and an indentation in the paper above the horseman. No sign of foxing

**Preservation Action:** Recommend light cleaning to remove surface dirt. Place between sheets of acid free, lignan free paper and store flat due to its oversized nature. Keep away from prolonged exposure to light and store in controlled environment 65 – 70 degrees and 45-50% RH.