

Guinzbourg, Victor S. M. de (compiled by). Archive of Original Signed Letters from United Nations Officials with Proverbs about Peace, War, Diplomacy and Life, 1945 – 1967.

484 leaves from 413 world leaders and diplomats, forming the "manuscript" of Part I of Guinzbourg's book, *The Eternal Machiavelli in the United Nations World*. The vast majority are Typed Letters Signed (TLS), about five are ALS, 82 have been supplemented with manuscript notes in the signer's hand and native language. TLS's dated 1945 – '67. Original letters have been modified with page numbers at the bottom, some headings or text have been edited for publication. About 20% have an adhesive stain on rear and bleed through front. Less than a handful are facsimile signature. Includes bound volumes of both books, unbound registers and incidental associated ephemera. All are in fine condition minus editing as manuscript for printing.

Guinzbourg obtained these letters--most of which include proverbs and good wishes--from the first 23 presidents of the UN General Assembly, the first three Secretaries-General of the UN (Dag Hammarskjold's letter is a photostat or early fax), as well as of the permanent representatives (ambassadors or foreign ministers) from more than 130 countries. He also acquired letters from nearly 150 territories like Andora, Armenia, the Palestine Liberation Organization, Goa, Manchuria, Tibet, the Virgin Islands, and a Native American organization.


Among the authors of these 413 original, authored and signed letters include:

- First three Secretaries-General of the U. N. - Trygve Lie, Dag Hammarskjold [photostat], U Thant
- 25 Presidents of the first 23 Regular and Special Sessions of the General Assembly
- 13 Heads of State, Prime Ministers or Presidents
- A Nobel Peace Prize Winner
- 90 Ambassadors
- 10 General Officers and 5 Field Grade Officers
- Scores of Foreign Ministers, Delegation Heads, Directors, Committee Chairmans, et. al.
- Adolph Hitler - Autograph Note Signed (non-sequitur to be explained)

PAREMIOGRAPHIC CONTENT & CONTEXT

Victor de Guinzbourg, invited each of these diplomats to send him a proverb, aphorisms, or morsel of wisdom. Their individualized responses had the inciteful, contextual, immediate relationship to their current role in the world of politics, peace and nation building.

Keep in mind that these letters are from the inaugural score of years of the United Nations when the world was recovering from the volcanic disruption of WW II and shifting geo-political resettling.

Sincerely,

Ralph J. Bunche
Acting Mediator

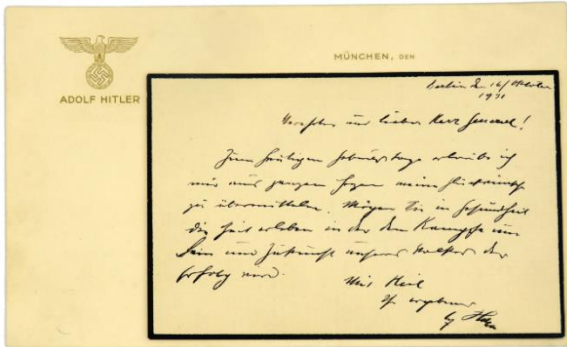
Rhodes, Jan 1949; At the time of this letter, Bunche was leading the negotiation for the Arab-Israeli Armistice for which won the Nobel Peace Prize the next year.

"Corn cannot expect justice in a yard full of chickens. There may not be much of wisdom in it, but it does convey a bit of hard nosed, practical wisdom."

V. K. Wellington Koo was China's representative from the League of Nations through the United Nations and all major international conferences, once served as Premier of China:

With personal regards,
Yours sincerely,
V.K. Wellington Koo

"...some personal recollections about the Dumbarton Oaks Conference of 1944 in Washington D.C. [where U. N. governing charter was developed]" *"One's life is limited but knowledge is limitless – Chuangtzu's Essays"*



A seeming anomaly in this collection is an ANS by Adolf Hitler. It is a Birthday greeting to a general officer, likely Franz Ritter von Epp, a Hitler Nazi political ally. He was the Reichskommissar, for Bavaria. Translated from German; *Berlin, Oct 16, 1931. "To your birthday today I take permission to transmit to you my full hearted best wishes. May you live in health at this time. May the struggle (Kampf) for present and future of our state be successful. My Greetings, Your Humble Adolf Hitler."* Of note is that he uses the word 'Kampf' which of course may reference his book. Written the same day as the Nazi party walked out of

the Reichstag after Chancellor Brüning barely survived a confidence vote.

Guinzbourg included this letter "merely to reflect the thought that strong personalities, throughout history, played a deciding role in shaping the course of world events." However, its incongruence in this collection suggests Guinzbourg the collector may have included it to burnish the credentials of his archive. Certainly, he had the opportunity to acquire some unique war souvenirs based upon his forward position in the fall of Germany and his role as an interpreter during the Nuremberg trials. It stands alone in this collection as someone not associated with the pursuit of peace and unity.

Some of the highlights in this collection from diplomats in the context of their service:

Sincerely yours,
Trygve Lie
Trygve Lie

The first Secretary General reflects on his experience as a politician in both war and peace.

"Det er betre a vere her i eit lite hus enn trael i eit stort" which in English is: It is better to be a free man in a small house than a slave in a big house."

"Unity comes before Peace."

"He who is afraid knows no peace."

"Whenever there is love there is peace"

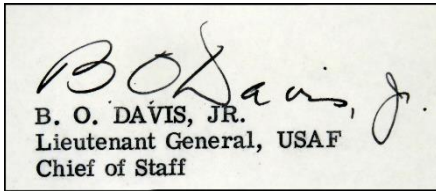
Yours sincerely,
U Thant
U Thant
Secretary-General

There are two letters signed by U Thant, the other is as Permanent Representative from Burma

Eban's reply is hand written in Hebrew with a typed English translation.

"He that is slow to anger is better than the might: and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city." (Proverbs 16:32)

Yours very sincerely,
Abba Eban
Abba Eban
Ambassador



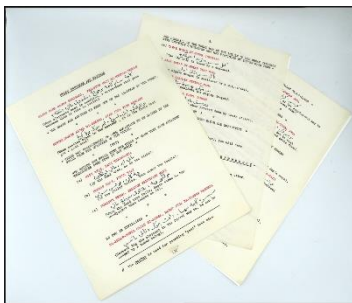
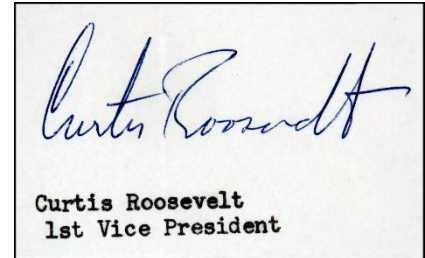
Son of the first black American General, Tuskegee aviator B. O. Davis Jr. was chief of staff for the U. N. Command and U.S. Forces in Korea (USFK) in April 1965 at the writing of his letter.

“The wisdom of the Korean people, expressed in their proverbs, can easily be applied to relations between states. “*To have a cake in each*

hand” is to know not which to eat first – to be in a quandary, which course to follow, or which side to favor”

Based upon de Guinzbourg’s specific request of the author, the response sometimes included a philosophy rather than a proverb.

“I joined the United Nations Secretariat after my grandmother Eleanor Roosevelt’s death...she would have been pleased to have one member of the family as an international civil servant.”



The Malaya Federation shared four marvelous pages of color coded wisdom from their ancestors:

“If thread snaps a join can be made, but broken charcoal is broken forever”

“The big ship is towed by a dug-out”

“Onions are damaged when pressed down by their stalks”

Fourteen of these letters are dated September 20, 1960 and others within the same month. That was the opening day of the General Assembly when de Guinzbourg petitioned these newly independent African countries which were admitted as members. They included: Dahomey, Upper Volta, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Republic of the Congo (Leopoldville), Republic of the Congo (Brazzaville), Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Madagascar, Niger, Somalia, Togo, Mali and Senegal, bringing that body's membership to 98.

It is a testament to de Guinzbourg’s administrative capabilities that he was able to co-ordinate these letters taking into such considerations as U. N. Membership, the individuals’ responsibilities and realpolitik.

Victor S. M. de Guinzbourg

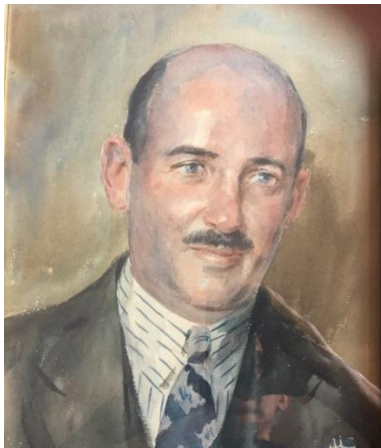


Photo of oil painting courtesy of Laurence Brereton, de Guinzbourg’s nephew

Guinzbourg's parents were Russian (father) and Austrian (mother) Jews. His father Solomon de Guinzbourg, owned the Russo Asiatic Bank. He was responsible for putting the finances together for the Trans Siberian railroad. His mother died at Auschwitz; his father survived hiding in the Pyrennes. Victor arrived in the US sometime before 1931, when he married Edith Heinlein (1904-2003), in New York. He became a naturalized US citizen in 1939.

Guinzbourg was a member of The Greatest Generation. He joined the US Army in May 1942 as a warrant officer. According to his enlistment record, he made a living selling insurance at the time. With his knowledge of German and Russian, and fluency in eight other languages, he was assigned to the 307th Counterintelligence group...he was a spy. While the specifics of his work are still not public, he worked undercover in North Africa, Italy, France and Germany. He was among the first soldiers into Hitler's Eagle's Nest. His fluency resulted in assignment as an interpreter during the Nuremberg trials.

He retired as a Lt. Colonel. In 1950, Guinzbourg translated for Valentin Gubitchev, a Russian diplomat, during his trial for stealing US state secrets.



Soon after the end of the Second World War, Guinzbourg joined the Office of Military Affairs at the United Nations, where he worked for several decades. It is discreetly believed that he was the primary U.S. ‘agent’ monitoring Russia in the context of work within the U. N. His files are still Secret in the CIA archives.

Guinzbourg's great private passion was collecting books of proverbs, aphorisms and fables. It was perhaps the largest ever collection on the subject. Most of de Guinzbourg’s book collection has been internationally auctioned. They are easily identified by his “Cloak and Dagger” bookplate.

Seeking to build on this collection, he also published two of his own, *Wit and Wisdom of the United Nations* (1961), revised and expanded as *The Eternal Machiavelli* (1969). For both books, he sought proverbs from UN officials and diplomats on the subjects of peace and war. *The first half of The Eternal Machiavelli consists of facsimiles of the letters he received in response to his requests for proverbs from Diplomats around the world. This archive is comprised of the originals of those letters.*

Many of Guinzbourg's correspondents reflected on past and present work for the UN and offer explanations for why a proverb fits the particular diplomatic moment. The letters are not simply an autograph and proverb collecting--they offer hundreds of small windows to the thought of thoughtful diplomats.

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He also wrote to diplomats who had participated in key events leading to the UN and then he wrote to the heads of UN operations around the world (about 150). The letters run from one to four pages.

Many responders typed their reply and hand wrote the Proverb in their native script:



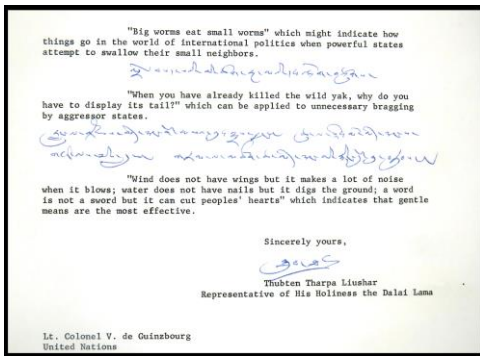
“In this world and beyond, felicity lies with Magnanimity with friends and tolerance of enemies”

Dr. Djlal Abdoh, Ambassador from Iraq



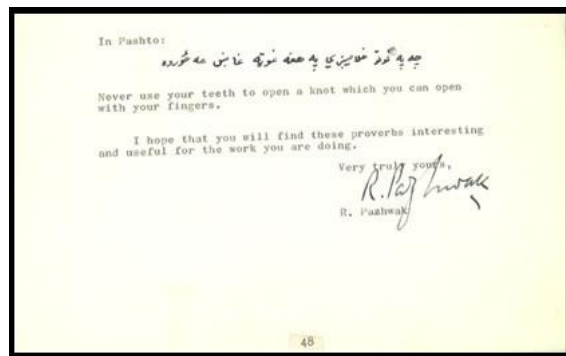
“The world is one family”

Hung-Ti Chu
Asst. Secretary UN Commission on Korea



“When you have already killed the yak, Why do you have to display its tail”

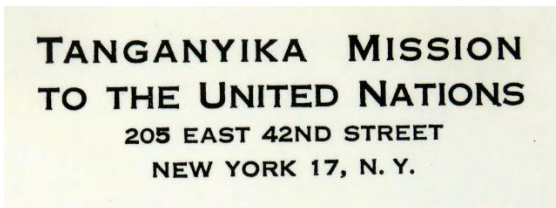
Thubten Tharpa Liushar
Representative of the Dalai Lama



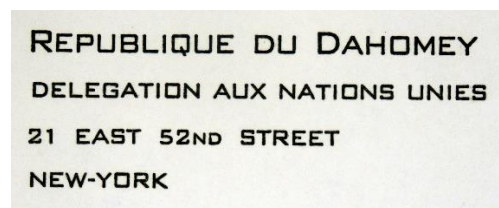
“Never use your tooth to open a knot you can open with your fingers.”

Abdur-Rahman Pazhwak
Ambassador, Afghanistan

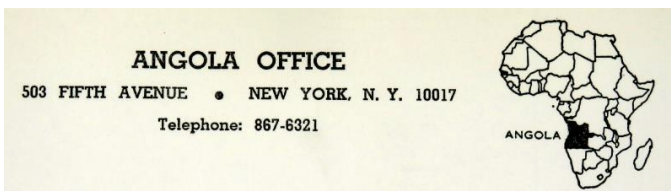
Some of the countries represented in these letters no longer exist, their name has changed, or their borders have morphed, even being incorporated by other countries:



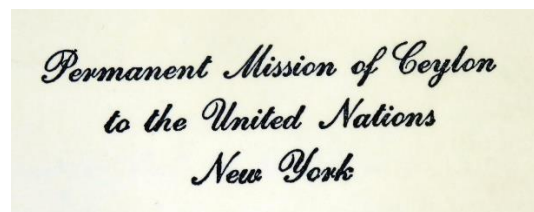
*“Haba nah ab hujaza kibab
A Little and little give a full measure”*



*Yan de fin abla dakpa do assi ton non houe non meton meton oue do zohoum dakpa non min houe
A son-in-law, who in his mother-in-laws business, disguises a burnt cake and says that in life everyone has a cake that burns their flank.*



*“Wimbaimba kesynia eteke oyoka
He who keeps throwing across the river, one day he will go over himself.”*



*“Nahe verena verani Sammanthida kudachannan
Averenecha sammanthi Esa dhammo sananthano*

Hatred is dispelled not by hatred, but by kindness. This is the eternal law”

About 150 of the letters are from U. N. Agencies, Commissions or extra-National organizations.

ORGANISATION DU TRAITÉ DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

"He is a wise man who can adapt himself to all conditions: the fool struggles, like a swimmer, to go against the stream" - Lt. Gen. Duilio S. Fanali

United Association of the American Indians, Inc.

1492 PACIFIC STREET, BROOKLYN 13, N. Y.

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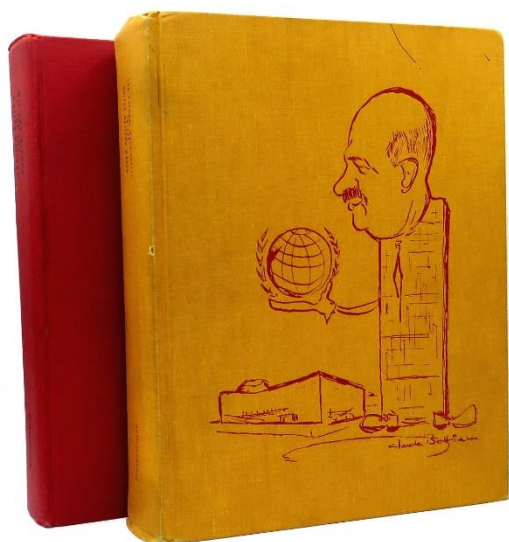
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UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK

"So you can keep Manhattan Island"
- Chief Running Horse

"Mankind owes to the children the best it has to give"
- Henry R. Labouise



The Eternal Machiavelli In The United Nations World. Privately published, 1969, Number 582 of 1050 copies. 11" x 8.5", pp. 5-899, Inscribed, "Popular wisdom can help explain the dilemmas of International relations / With greetings and salutations to Sally Boswell / 27 Feb 1975 Victor S. M. de Guinzbourg" Very Good. This volume includes facsimiles of the all the letters, including those republished from *Wit and Wisdom*

Wit and Wisdom of the United Nations. Privately published, 1961, Number 996 of 1050 copies. Signed by author on colophon page and Christmas 1965 gift inscription by author on blank title page. Very Good condition, clean text block, red faux leather over boards with titling in gilt on spine and line drawing of United Nations on the cover. This original volume had 275 facsimiles of the letters published therein.

Both books are published in two parts. Part 1 is a facsimile of the letters. Part 2 organizes and collates the proverbs by subject. While there are about a dozen of both of these books in OCLC, most of them were likely broadly distributed around the world to the letters' authors and de Guinzbourg's vast network of international relationships. It is whimsical to wonder what corners of the earth the other copies reside.

Signed Supplement – self-published, 1965, includes 30 letters received between both volumes. According to Brereton, "...only a few copies were published and signed, mostly for family members." 32 pp., photocopy with red paper cover. Cover drawing and title page are by Hungarian artist Emery Kelen. Kelen was a Jew from Hungary. With his partner Alois Derso, they drew caricatures of famous diplomats and statesmen of the day along with satirical cartoons. They were pictorial artists for the League of Nations. Friends helped whisk them away from Europe in 1938 due to being Jews parodying Hitler.

Provenance: This collection was sold to Robert Easton by de Guinzbourg's widow, then acquired from the Easton estate. **\$16,500 net ppd.**

