

1920 Blunser St.  
Denver 7, Colo.  
January 28, 1944.

Dear Dr. J. G.:

We are glad that the rugs were suitable - Thank you most kindly for your check. If you should have need of any more rugs, I could possibly locate something for you, although I might not be able to do so quickly. However, if you wish to give me some general idea of what is desired in size, general coloration, and condition required, I could watch for something of that sort. Occasionally I see a very large rug at a reasonable figure, but most of the pieces are smaller. In general the price is governed by the condition & quality of the piece & the value drops very rapidly if repairs are necessary, because the repairs are quite expensive. Once in a while I see a rug that is quite reasonable in price but I don't buy because we already have more than are actually need. Other times the rugs are very high - out of all proportion to what I would pay - but I see a good many.

Since I have quit collecting rugs (both Oriental & Amer. Indian) I have gone into antique firearms, of which I now have about 15. This is a fascinating hobby although obviously not very useful - the rugs have a utilitarian value. I obtain complete firearms on which the finish is fairly well gone & refinish them to look new. This usually involves the use of fine emery cloth, etc. & then rebluing or replating - I usually put back the finish of the original piece. After refinishing

Occasionally fire them a few times to see that they are in quite excellent shooting order. I am specializing chiefly in cartridge arms of American manufacture and particularly .32 rimfire caliber. Therefore, most of the pieces are not more than 80 yrs. old. Do you ever see anything along this line in your wanderings? If you ever run across small pistols bearing the names of Remington, Colt, Smith & Wesson, Allen or Allen & Wheelock that are in fairly good condition and can be purchased for a few dollars let me know. Antiques of this sort are not particularly valuable and seldom worth more than \$10 or \$12 (even in very good condition) although many people have the notion they are extremely valuable. Let me know if you ever have the opportunity to pick up any old firearms - pistols & revolvers, but not rifles or shotguns.

We were interested in the various babies particularly, Cuyler's. Do you hear much from Charles Bell?

Are you familiar with the benzidine or the safranin tests for bentonites? I have become the chief tester of bentonites for the Bur. of Recl. & recently written a brief lab. report on classification & tests.

Please give my regards to Virgil et al.

Sincerely yours,

Samuel McCune