

The Final Disposition of the LSAA's Memorabilia

Note: This is a more detailed version of the same-named article that appears in the December 2020 edition of the P&S. It is the second of the memorabilia-related briefings given by Bob Sansone at the Zoom Annual Business Meeting. This is also not a transcript, but is a reasonable facsimile of what was presented. It addresses a proposed plan and approach to properly disposing of the LSAA Inc.'s considerable Memorabilia Collection prior to its dissolution so that none of it is in our possession when that dissolution occurs. RH

The Proposed Plan

Listed here are the cornerstone principles of our plan. The goal is to dispose of all our memorabilia prior to the dissolution of the LSAA. The dissolution date is when the LSAA Inc. will cease active operations and Berkshire Taconic takes over its agreed upon obligations. Everything will go, even the most historic items, some of which we'll try to donate to the Lenox Library and Lenox and Berkshire Historical Societies and others of which we'll try to sell.

The donors of over 750 items may request that their item(s) be returned if they're not donated or remain on display. However, we'll try to sell as much as possible, first to members and friends at Reunions, on-line and possibly off-line if we can figure out a suitable method. Then to the public via on-line sales sites with all funds going to causes in keeping with the school motto. What's not donated, displayed, returned or sold will be destroyed so that it is unidentifiable.

Timing Considerations

Addressed here are what we see as the key timing considerations affecting our plan. An LSAA dissolution date has not yet been determined; might not be in the immediate future; and will require membership approval. Reunions offer the best opportunity to sell/auction memorabilia, but the number and frequency of Reunions after 2021 is undetermined. And finally, memorabilia should not be sold before it's been scanned for the website and saved in the website's database or scanned for an Archival Disk, which hopefully will be completed prior to the 2021 Reunion.

The Realities of Disposing of Memorabilia

Here is what we've learned about disposing of our memorabilia. We've got a lot of it with many items, considerable bulk, and little intrinsic value. No one's interested in taking most of the items and archiving them, because Lenox School isn't a major topic of interest to them; a few

already have some items; they have no space, staff, or money to properly archive and display it; and we can't just drop it on someone's doorstep, or it'll end up in a dumpster. Consequently, a website provides the widest possible exposure and access to the public in perpetuity. It's also evident that most all methods of selling it involve a considerable expenditure of time, effort and manpower to successfully pull off.

Quantities and Locations of Memorabilia

Here is just how much memorabilia we have. Currently inventoried are a total of 2,821 items, 2,156 of which are separate items and 665 of which are duplicate copies. About 78% of the total items are from Lenox School, 21% from the LSAA Inc., and 1% from the Bordentown/Lenox School. A few of the items are either Xerox or pdf copies and all the paper items are stored in separate file-numbered folders.

The entire collection, plus paper copies of photos with captions mounted on Styrofoam that were prepared for Reunion displays, are stored in 20 plastic boxes, 7 of which contain the Styrofoam-backed photos. An additional 11 oversized items that won't fit in the boxes completes the stored collection items. Another 1 box and 2 oversized items are contained in the 2 Shakespeare & Company memorabilia displays.

Randy has a little less than half of the boxes, primarily the paper memorabilia, while everything else is stored at S&Co. We also have a considerable number [75-100] of metal tabletop easels from Hobby Lobby as well as 16 Isdris medium and small plastic airtight storage boxes from Staples that will become available once the memorabilia is disposed of.

Offering/Selling the Memorabilia

Provided here are some more detailed thoughts on selling the memorabilia. We will post the Memorabilia Collection Inventory on the website, along with a refined shopping list of desirable items. As previously stated, items will be offered for sale to LSAA members and friends first. An auction at a future Reunion combined with simultaneous non-attendee Zoom participation would probably be the most effective method of sale. A separate non-Reunion Zoom auction is most likely the second most effective method. We will also try to allow off-line members to purchase items in some manner, but this may be difficult. The items to be Auctioned will focus on that 'to be published' list of select desirable items taken from the Memorabilia Collection Inventory. Any other inventory items may be purchased at a member-offered price

Items will be offered for sale to the public, utilizing various on-line sites, only after sales to the LSAA have been completed. We can use the website photos to advertise the major items and will need a knowledgeable individual with access to the memorabilia to run the operation.

Destruction of the Memorabilia

In reality, it's very likely that we'll have to destroy a large quantity of memorabilia and here are some guidelines on how we'll do it. Once the membership approves an LSAA 'Dissolution Date', prior to that day, the remaining memorabilia will be destroyed by individuals designated by the Board. The destruction will be complete, so that no items can be identified as being from Lenox School and no personal information can be compromised.

The suggested methods of destruction are: paper products shredded and/or burned; other combustible items [e.g. textiles such as clothing, uniforms and banners] burned; and metal items crushed or melted. Again the key is that items will be rendered unrecognizable before they're discarded.

~ Randy Harris