

Rare Collection Auctioned: The David Cassidy Papers

Since The Partridge Family premiered on ABC in 1970 an incredible amount of material about David Cassidy has accumulated in my files. Recently I wrote to the Library of Congress offering to donate this valuable research material to the nation's literary treasury. The correspondence from David Cassidy fans alone would be of considerable research importance to psychologists, social anthropologists, historians and other scholars studying the major cultural phenomena of the 1970-72 period of TV history. The Library of Congress thus far has not accepted the David Cassidy Papers. Maybe I would have had better luck with my Donny Osmond material.

A problem remains. Should I throw all this primary and secondary source material into the garbage can, thus cheating future scholars of insight into the way the American television viewers' minds operated? My instinct is for preservation, despite space problems in the Kitman Archives. A compromise solution came to mind. The papers are worth saving, but in other people's libraries.

All of which will explain today's auction. I have decided sell to the highest bidder some of my most treasured David Cassidy memorabilia. Hopefully other collectors of David Cassidy Papers will buy the important social documents listed below, saving them from the ravages of the incinerator.

All the items up for auction today really exist. They are numbered and being held for safekeeping in the Kitman Archives. Generally speaking, the items cataloged below are priceless. However, I have arbitrarily picked a minimum price (less than which the item cannot be sold). In all cases, the highest bid wins. No credit cards accepted. Allow 10 days for delivery.

Item No. 1: A genuine envelope (dated April 14, 1972), inscribed by hand: "Hey, Mr. Mailman, don't be slow — Be like a CASSIDY and GO-MAN-GO." (Minimum price accepted: \$1.99)

Item No. 2: a xerox of David Cassidy's birth certificate. Sent in to a TV critic (circa June 1972) to prove David Cassidy is 22, not 24. (Minimum price accepted: \$2.99)

Item No. 3: One unbelievably unusual letter from a reader named "David's Fan 4-Ever." It reads in part: "David Cassidy is the best! You're

just jealous because you don't have good looks, a great voice, personality, warmth, kindness, ... like David does. You have a lot to be jealous of. I don't see an organization fighting cancer named after you."

(I won't let this item go for less than 23 cents. Normally it would bring a much dearer price, but it is still rather fresh—dated Oct. 18, 1972. This one will increase in value enormously as it ages.)

Item No. 4: A piece of Swiss cheese. The sender swears it is what critics (who review David Cassidy performances less favorably than his mother or sweetheart might) eat because they are rats. Arrived in the mail in stale condition. (Minimum price accepted: \$2.30 per pound.)

Item No. 5: Set of notes (slightly illegible). Written by the noted American TV critic Marvin Kitman, they are the outline for an essay on why the American TV public would accept as a new sex symbol Zalman King (young male star of the Young Lawyers which debuted the same season as The Partridge Family) rather than David Cassidy.

The notes say: "American teenage girls traditionally have liked their men 'virile, almost brutal, but gentle. Like Ben Casey. Any little girl who falls in love with Zalman King probably has good values and will live happily ever after; girls who fall in love with Cassidy will not make good marriages in later adult life." This is unpublished material. A real find. (Minimum price accepted: \$4.99.)

Item No. 6: Assorted public-

ity releases from the American Broadcasting Corp. announcing events pertaining to the second season of The Partridge Family. Poorly written. (Minimum price accepted: 58 cents each.)

Item No. 7: A rarity. Letter on the subject of David Cassidy, signed with an authentic name. This one explains: "You think your (sic) so hot because you went to China and took Chung Fu (sic) or whatever it is, your (sic) in for a big surprise. Your (sic) not! I do not go bananas when I see David Cassidy on TV. Why should I. I saw him live" (No minimum price. Best offer accepted.)

Item No. 8: Autographed David Cassidy stills from ABC staff photographer. Autographed by a well-known TV critic. (Minimum price: \$1.99. Picture unautographed: \$7.99.)

All proceeds from this auction will go to my three favorite charities. Please indicate



marvin kitman

which one you want your contribution to go to:

1—The Proper PH Clinic. Specializes in research in skin therapy for TV viewers.

2—The Donny Osmond Fund.

An organization dedicated to helping find Donny Osmond's voice, which was lost recently, according to radio reports.

3—The David Cassidy Home for Unwed Mothers.