

THE EISENHOWER SILVER

THE STIEFF ROSE PATTERN

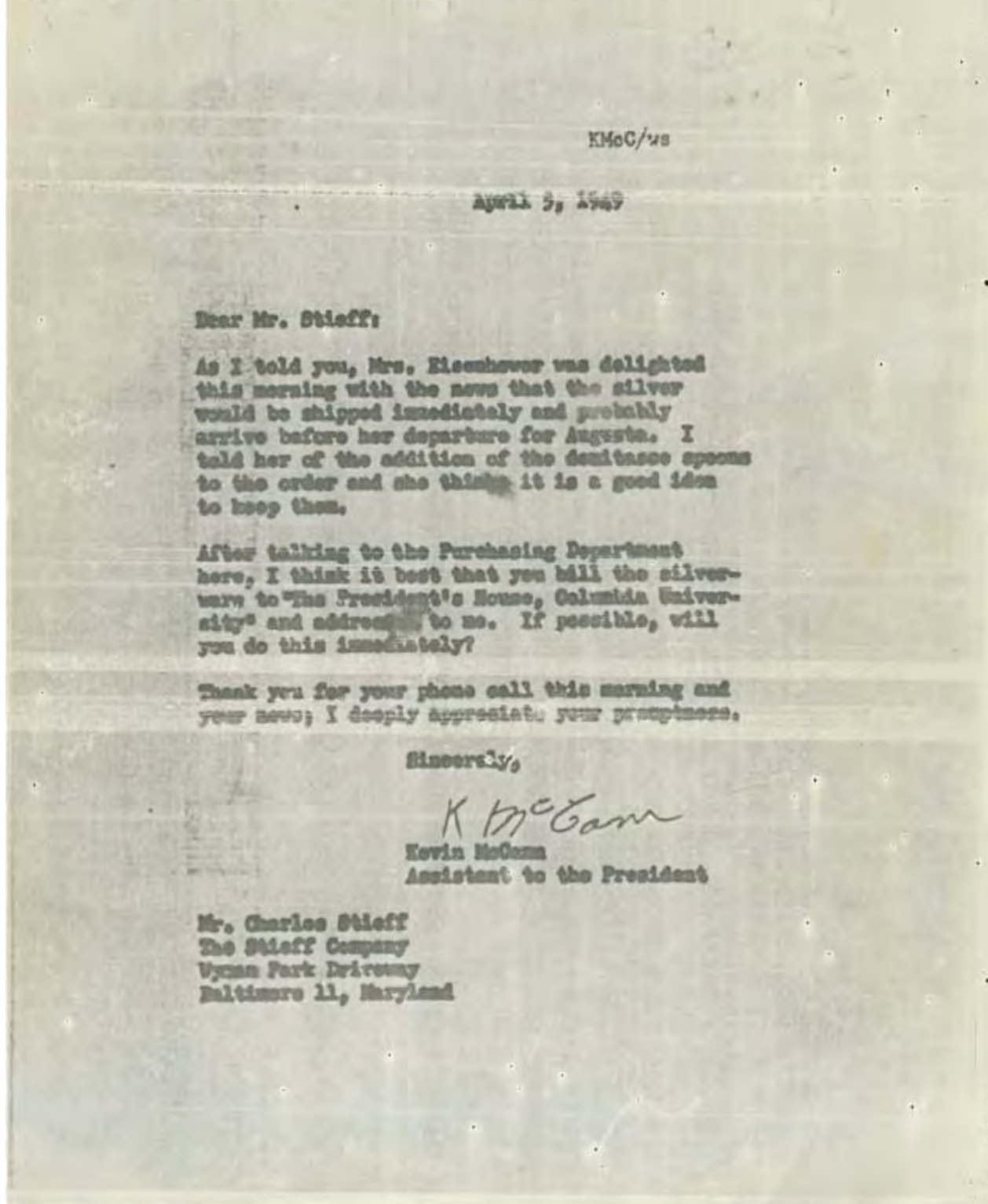
General Dwight D. & Mamie Eisenhower used Stieff Rose when the General was President of Columbia University.

These letters show a short correspondence between The Stieff Company and the Generals staff at Columbia concerning several orders for Stieff Silver... April- July 1949.

These scans were made from thermal paper copies provided by the Stieff family, from the papers of Charles C. Stieff II.

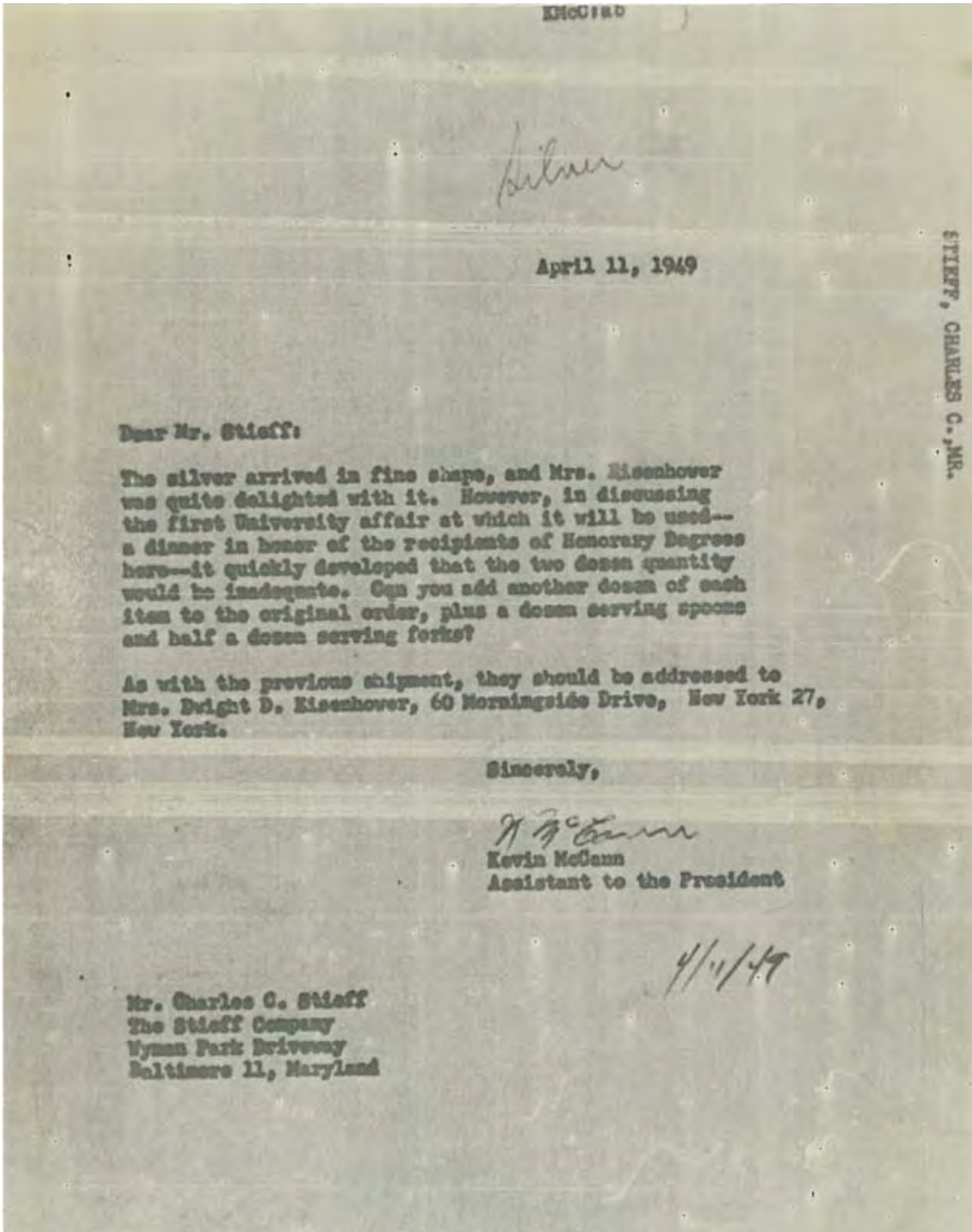
The conversation appears to have started earlier... this April 5 1949 letter addresses an earlier phone call. The letter is to Charles C. Stieff II. It would appear that he has suggested an additional sale of demitasse spoons.

Billing is to Columbia University



A historical note. Columbia University President, Gen. Dwight Eisenhower had fallen ill in early March 1949, and his Doctor, Gen. Snyder called it "acute gastroenteritis" (others called it a mild heart attack) but it was mostly covered up because Ike was considering a run for President of the United States and did not want to give the impression that he was an ill man. He spent several weeks in Key West out of the public eye with his doctor. Then on April 12 they moved to Augusta GA, where Ike could play golf and been seen as being in good health. Mamie joined him in Augusta. Rumors started that Eisenhower might not return to Columbia.. where there was a budget crisis under way... and (Eisenhower, was out of state for several months) But in the meantime... Mamie Eisenhower was buying more and more Stieff sterling silver. *Interesting huh???*

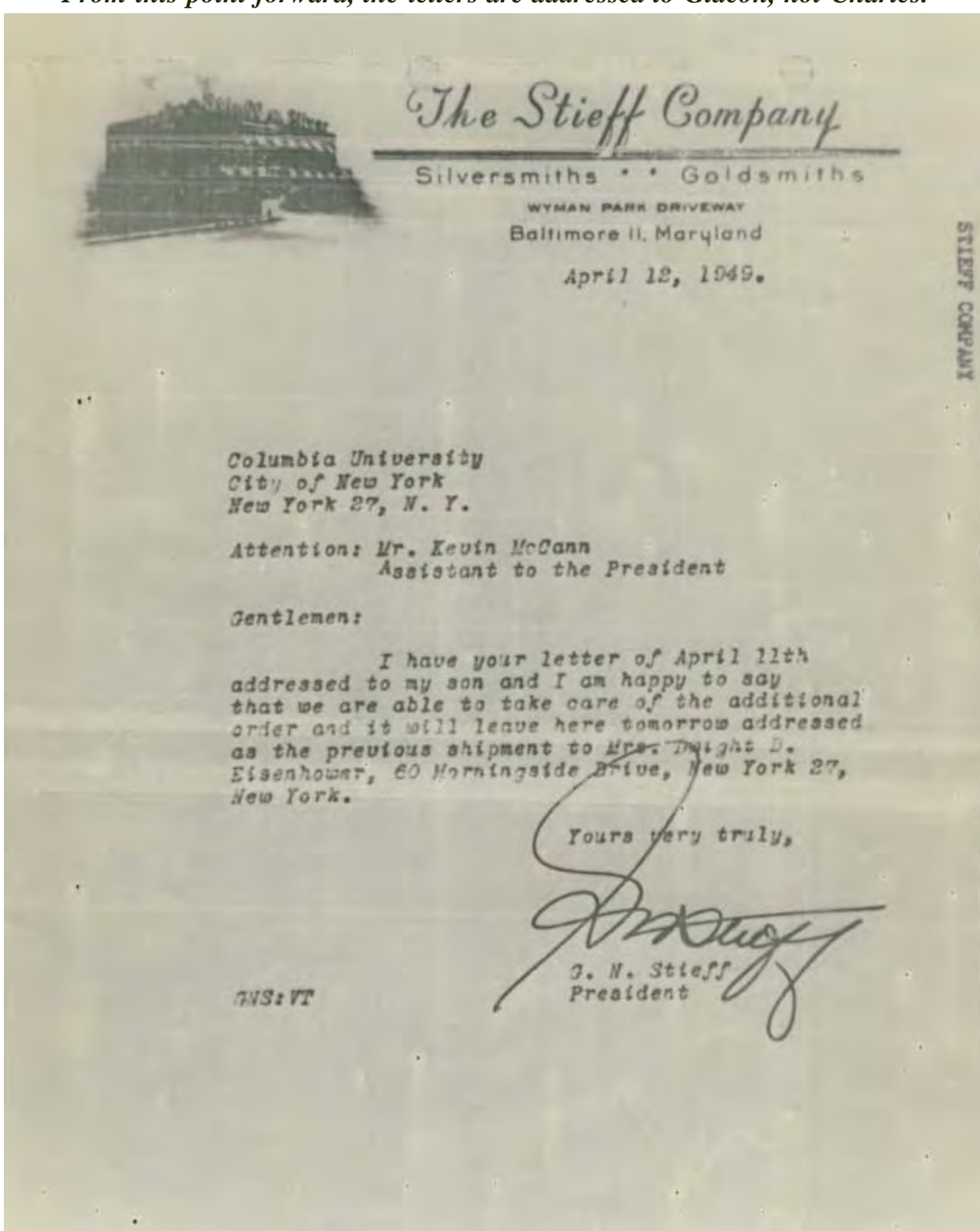
Just 6 days later, the silver has arrived. Mamie is delighted with the silver shipment. But now wants more of it.. and fast. There is a party coming up and needs the silver.



Kevin McCann met Eisenhower in 1946, and served on his staff in Europe, Washington DC and at Columbia. In 1951 he became President of Defiance College, Defiance OH. In 1955 he served as Special Assistant to the President. In 1957 he returned to Defiance College

4-12-49 Gideon Stieff, President of The Stieff Company responds, of course they can provide more silver.

From this point forward, the letters are addressed to Gideon, not Charles.



Note that STIEFF COMPANY is on the right edge of the letters written by Stieff. This to aid in filing letters when placed in file folders. A letter laying on the left side, head to the left (the proper way to file) would be easy to find with the company name on the edge.

More silver arrived in good order. Now Columbia University wants silver chests to store it in.

KMcC/us
April 20, 1949

Dear Mr. Stieff:

The second shipment of silver arrived the day following your visit here and, I think, everything is in perfect order. I do wish that the bill is sent on before the first of the month. It should be addressed to General Eisenhower, here at Columbia University, my attention.

There is one other last that I hope you can supply. When I spoke to your son on the telephone, I asked that the silver be sent in rolls and not in a chest. The housekeeper now tells me that if it is possible to get a chest which will hold the rolls—not the compartment type which I think is more usual—the silver will be more conveniently handled and stored. Do you have chests of this sort or can you advise me where I may procure one?

Again thanks for your firm's promptness in filling the two orders. Mrs. Eisenhower was very pleased at the quickness with which the first shipment arrived and I know she has told the General himself about it.

Sincerely,

K
Kevin McCann
Assistant to the President

Mr. G. H. Stieff
The Stieff Company
Wyman Park Driveway
Baltimore 11, Maryland

4-20-49

Stieff does not have the type of chest that Columbia needs!

Silversmiths * * Goldsmith
WYMAN PARK DRIVEWAY
Baltimore 11, Maryland

April 22, 1949

Mr. Kevin McCann, Asst. to the Pres.
Columbia University
New York 27, New York

Dear Mr. McCann:

I am certainly happy to know that the second shipment of silver arrived and is satisfactory. I am having the bill sent before the 1st of the month, as per your instructions, addressed to General Eisenhower, Columbia University, to your attention.

Unfortunately, we do not have any chests such as you describe and, as a matter of fact, I have never seen any chests of this type. Under the circumstances, I regret that I cannot tell you where you might obtain one. Our chest maker specializes in the type chest which is the kind we sent with the first order.

However, inasmuch as there evidently is one made such as you describe, I feel sure that if you will inquire among some of the department stores or jewelry stores in New York City, you will not have any difficulty in securing one. If you do not get any results from your inquiries, let me hear from you again and I shall be glad to go into the matter further with you.

Yours very truly,
THE STIEFF COMPANY

G. H. Stieff
G. H. Stieff
President

GNS:LLR

P. S. We are enclosing statement in this letter as we thought you wished this as soon as possible.

Enc.

Colonial Williamsburg Restoration



Only reproductions authorized by the Restoration

Note the lack of Colonial Williamsburg on the bottom of this letter. It was not on the other letters. Colonial Williamsburg had used a mark prior that did not have the oval around it, nor the wording Williamsburg.

Another internal memo within Columbia University.

June 1, 1949

MEMO to Mr. McCann
from C. G. Lent

Re Flat Silver - 60 Barnstaple Drive

Another addition to flat silver pieces received are:

- 36 Fish Knives
- 3 Sauce Ladles
- 3 Gravy Ladles

Signed *C. G. Lent*

c.c. Mr. Miller of Building & Grounds Dept.

I do not understand how these internal memos at Columbia University got into the possession of The Stieff Company.

And even MORE Stieff silver for the Eisenhower's table.

CCC:ab

June 22, 1949

Dear Mr. Stieff:

I am currently serving a brief period filling in for the General's personal assistant, who is now on a well-earned vacation. About 1 July I'll return to Milton and take up the summer assignment in an industry which Harvard believes to be beneficial as indoctrination for its Service students. We hope that your annual trip to New England will include the opportunity to pick up the long-standing rain check you have.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Eisenhower has asked if I would determine from you the quotation for twelve sets of salt and pepper shakers (both shakers—not salt dishes) in the table size. I queried as to whether these were "individual" and was told "table". Also, we presumed that sterling would be your only stock. I hope that is descriptive enough.

If there should be more than one pattern, design or other factor, could you have someone just send us the information without your bothering with the details.

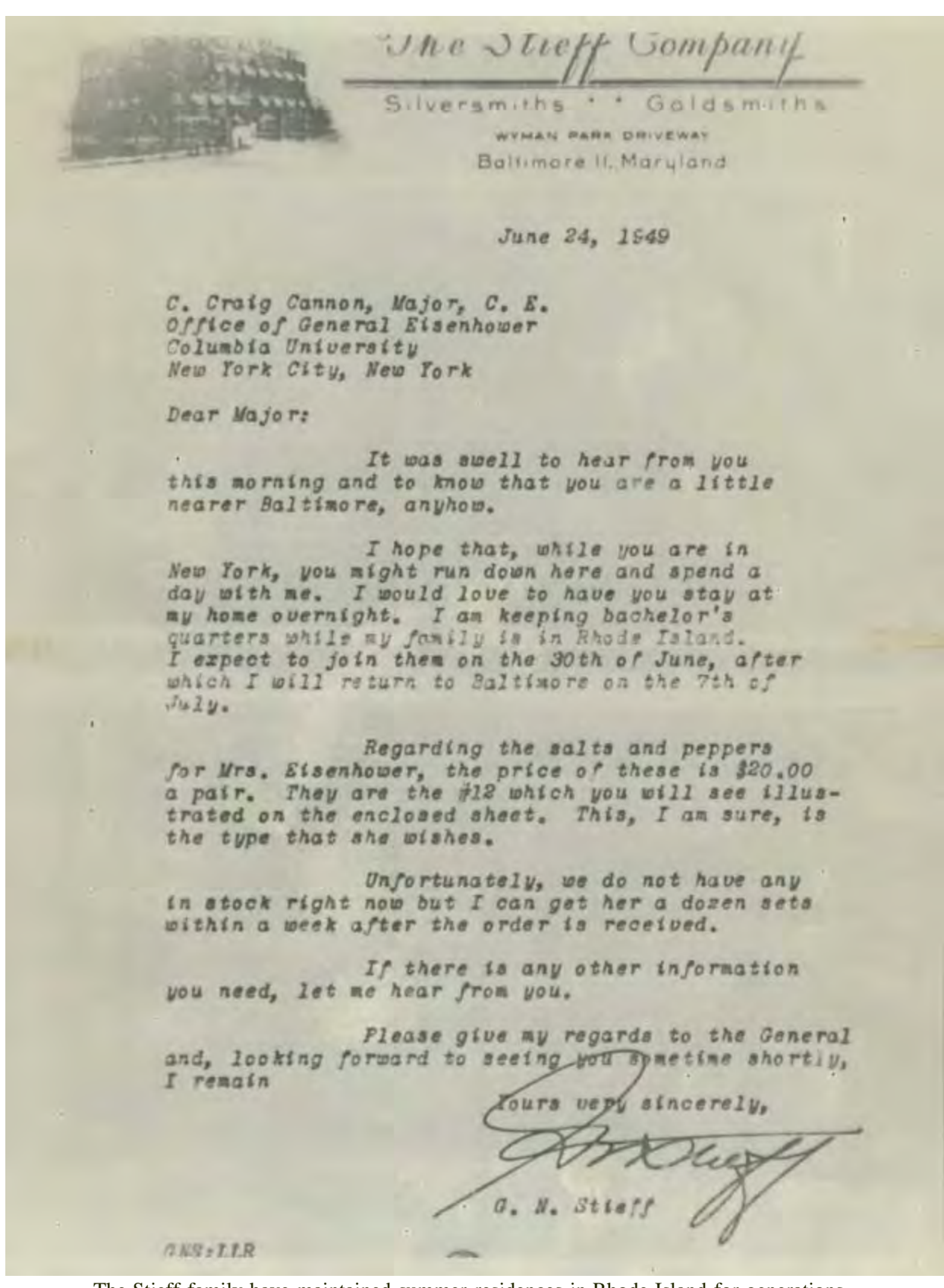
Again, best regards to you and your family.

Sincerely,

Craig
C. Craig Gibson
Major, C. E.

6/22/49

Mr. G. H. Stieff
The Stieff Company
Wyman Park Driveway
Baltimore 11, Maryland

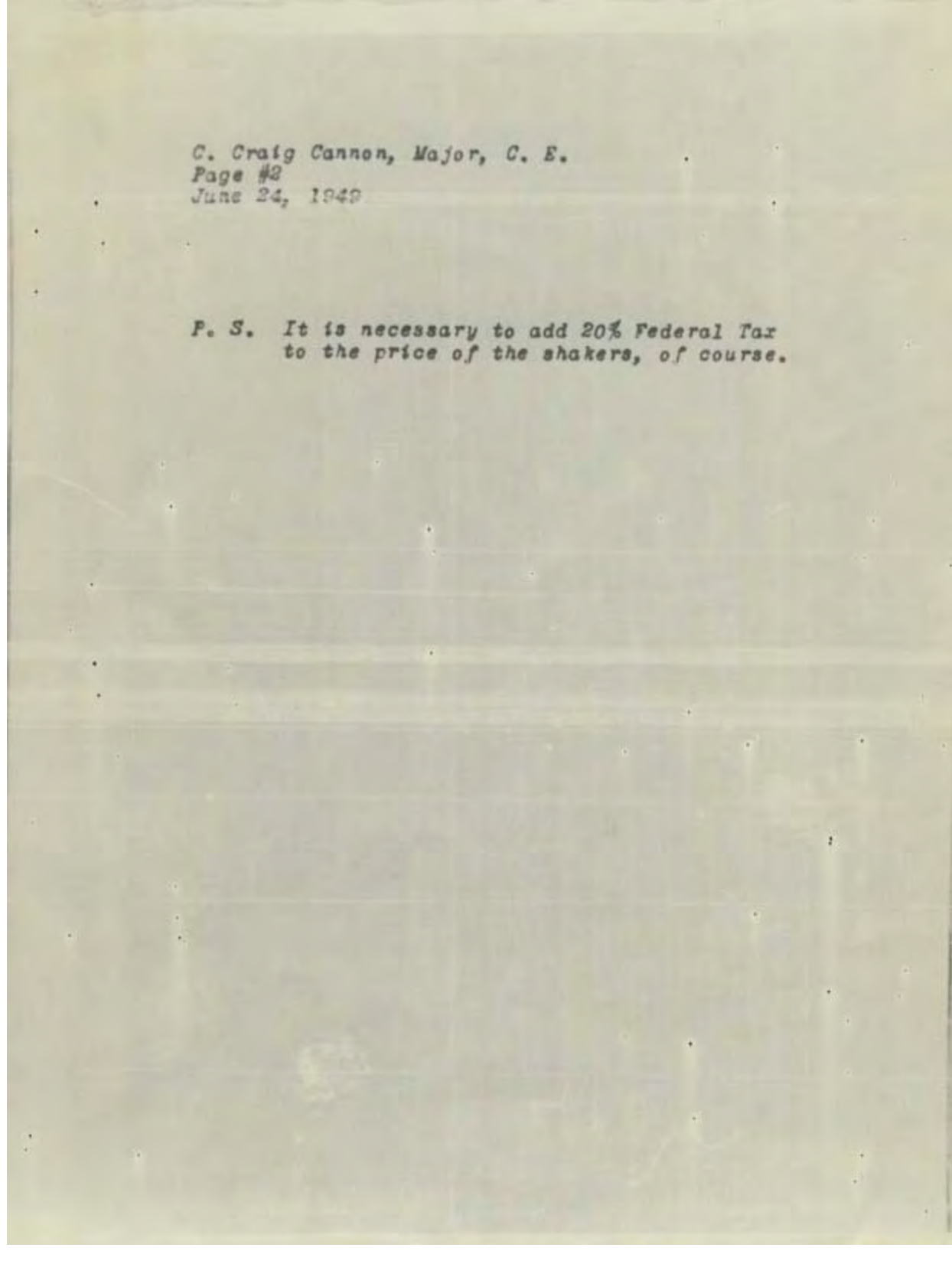


The Stieff family have maintained summer residences in Rhode Island for generations.

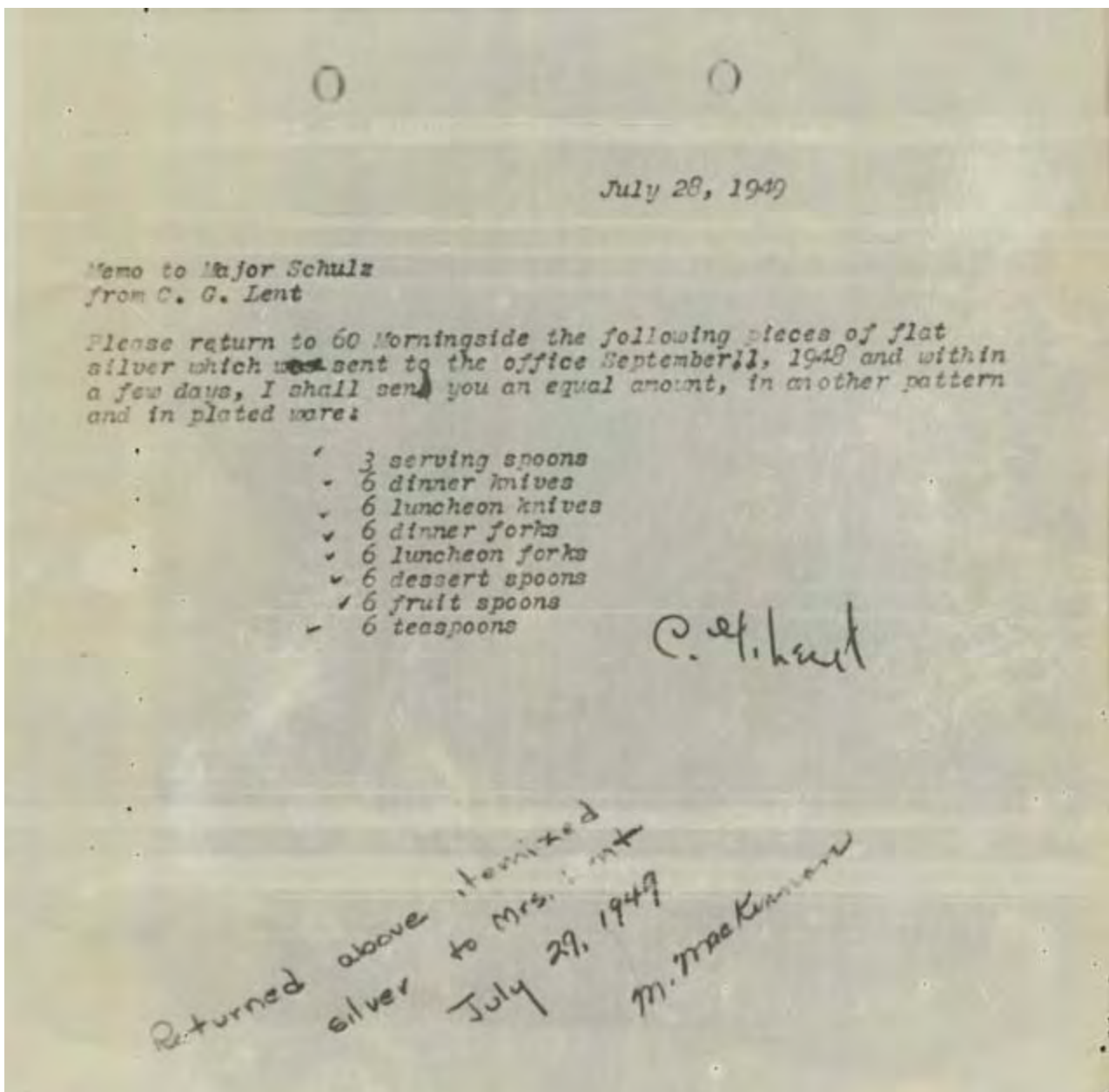
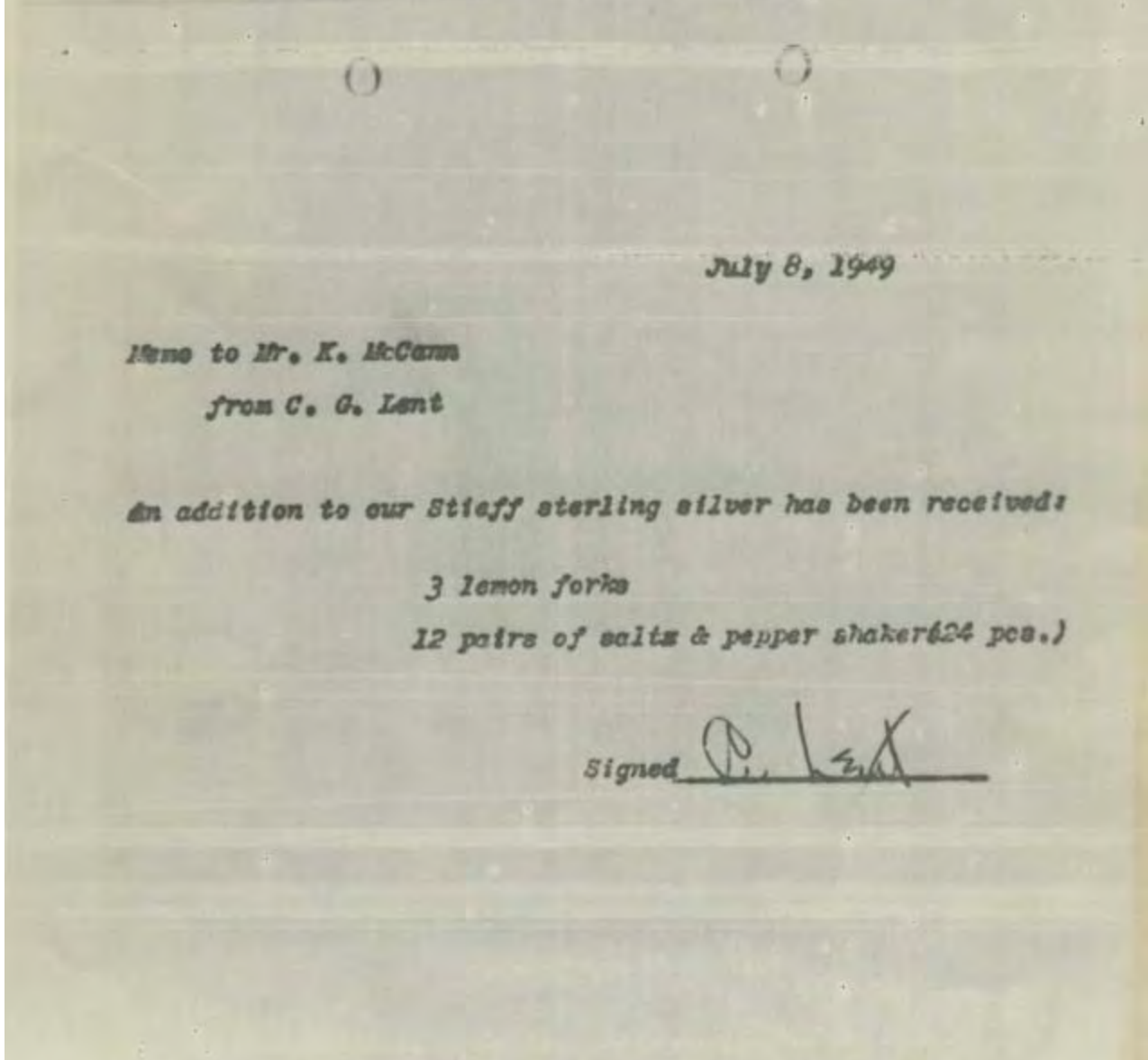
Major C. Craig Cannon was responsible for maintaining Gen. Eisenhower's offices during WWII. He would later become Colonel, and was appointed Supreme Commander of NATO in 1952.

PAGE TWO

Sterling Silver in 1949 was subject to a LUXURY TAX of 20% This is the tax that is one of the spaces in Monopoly, wedged in between Park Place and Boardwalk.



Another internal memo at Columbia University



June 28, 1949

Dear Mr. Stieff:

Thanks for your prompt reply to my query. Mrs. Eisenhower has made an equally prompt decision that she would like to have twelve sets or pairs of the No. 12 salt and peppers. She asked that I make sure particularly that the salts will have larger diameter holes since she seems to be in great fear that there may be some misunderstanding and double peppers or open salts might be furnished.

Since I will be leaving here the end of this week and returning to Boston, will you send the bill to Mr. Kevin McCann, Assistant to the President, at 535 West 116th Street. If you wish, the order can also be sent to him, or sent directly to Mrs. Eisenhower at 60 Morningside Drive.

In view of my departure, I won't be able to take advantage of your thoughtful invitation to go down to Baltimore, but I do hope that I can get together with you one of these days, and most certainly I hope that you will get that long-awaited and often-postponed opportunity to meet the General and learn personally of his gratitude for the many nice things you have done.

With warm personal regard,

Sincerely,



C. Craig Cannon
Major, U. S.

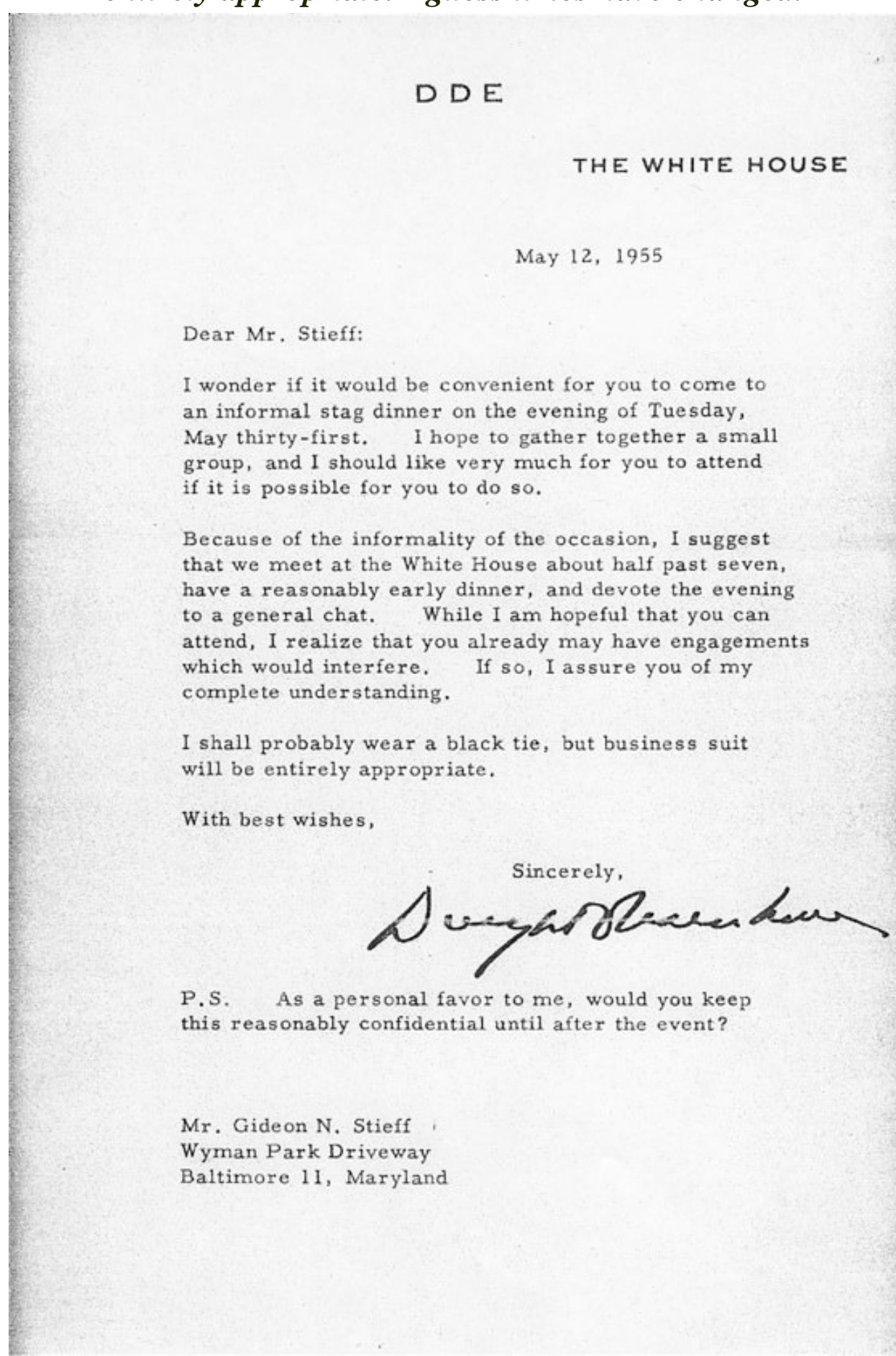
Mr. G. N. Stieff
The Stieff Company
Wyman Park Driveway
Baltimore 11, Maryland

This is the end of the Eisenhower series of letters concerning the silver at Columbia University. More letters follow below.

The Eisenhower's and the Stieff's would become friends. Gideon would attend parties at the White House, exchange letters and when his grandson first Charles C. Stieff III was born, Mamie would send a hand written note to the family. That note now hangs on the wall of Charles C. Stieff III's home.

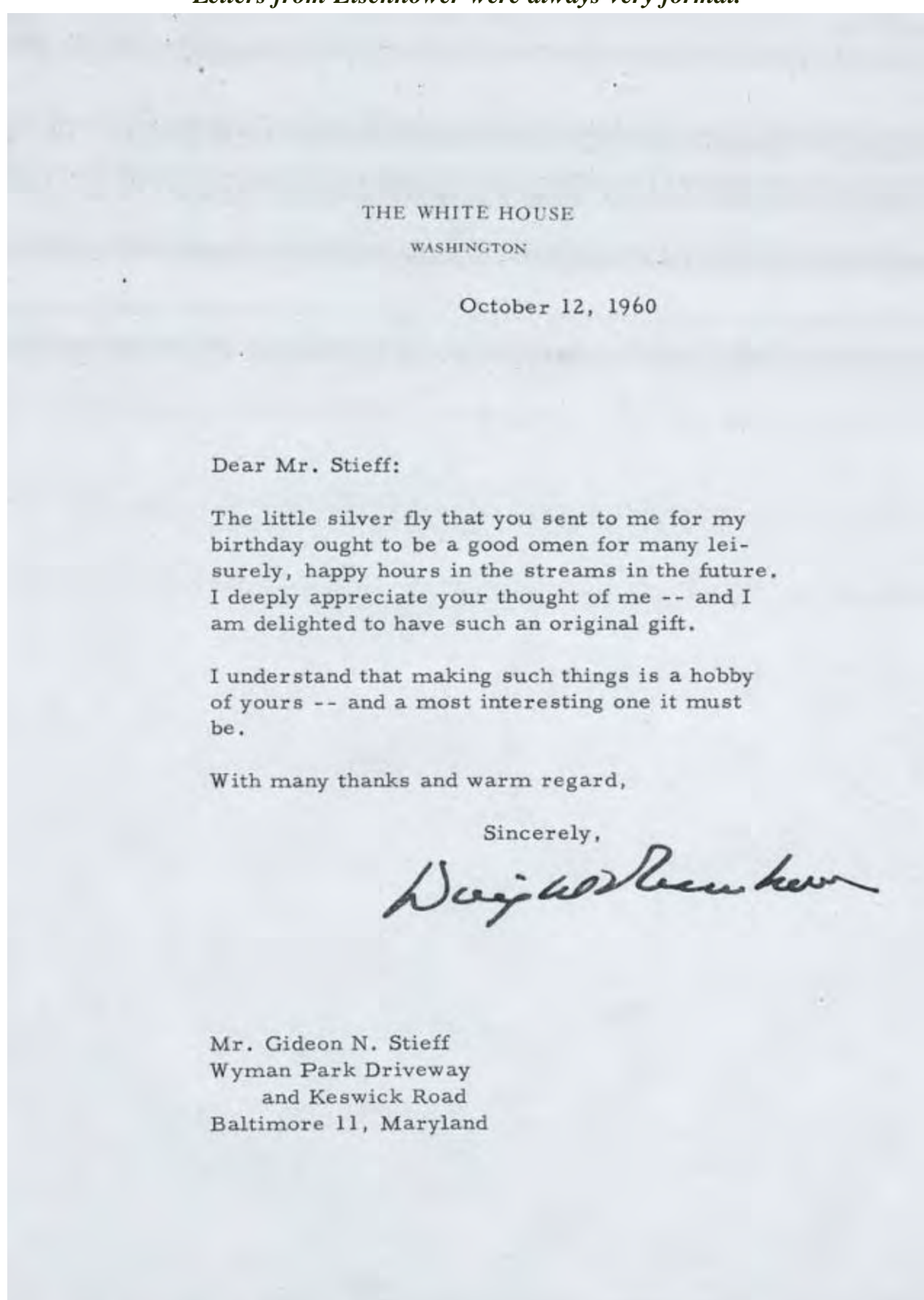
From time to time the Eisenhower's would need a special gift for a dignitary and a military helicopter would be dispatched to Baltimore, to land on the lawn of The Stieff Company to pick up the item... with someone running the special sterling silver item out to the waiting pilot.

Below is a letter to Gideon Stieff, inviting him to a "stag night" at the White House. I like that Ike calls the occasion informal, but he would be in Black Tie, but business suits would be entirely appropriate. I guess times have changed.



This next letter is from President Eisenhower to Gideon Stieff thanking him for the a special birthday gift that Gideon Stieff had made for him.

Letters from Eisenhower were always very formal.



This letter was written in the last few months of Eisenhower's presidency. John F. Kennedy would be elected President within a month of this letter.