

Oakland Calif.
Oct, 31st 1927.

The Right Reverend Thompson W. McKinney, D.D.

3046 N. Fifth St,
Philadelphia Pa.

Dear Sir.

Your letter of Oct 15th at hand and in answer beg to state that you are right in assuming that I have the body of John Wilkes Booth. I have owned the body for the past several years having bought it from the Widow of the late Finis L. Bates of Memphis Tenn, and have since owning same exhibited it in the several western states but at the present time to my knowledge it has never been exhibited in the East.

In answers to both of your questions, namely, if I would sell the body, and if I would be interested in bringing the body east for exhibition purposes, I might say yes to both, Although I have never considered selling the body seriously I suppose I would if the consideration was of sufficient importance to warrant, I quite frequently realize as much as five hundred dollars in one day from the exhibits, and find the receipts are usually quite consistent therefore you will readily realize that I am by no means anxious to dispose of the body.

At the same time it would be only fair to add that at the present time I am engaged in a venture that would make it possible to bring the body east for exhibition purposes. Namely I have purchased a private railway car and am equipping same completely, including electric light plant a two thousand dollar instrument to reproduce a forty five minute lecture by audiophone, Broadcasting and receiving etc, in all an expenditure of approximately twelve to fifteen thousand dollars to enable me to properly present this historical fact in a way calculated to be forceful enough to attract and hold the interest of all who hears, and as it is my intention to travel extensively with the exhibition it wouldnt be so difficult to to arrange a tour of the east at some time however at the present time my plans were to cover the south possibly first, That however could be re-arranged, I have in connection with the body a fine collection of facts affidavits letters clippings etc, to support the theory and also have the original oil paintings copyrighted by Mr Bates and use his story as a text but do not use the books or offer them for sale because of the fact that seems to affect the credulity of the audience and create a distrust.

I am glad to have had your letter and trust I have covered the points you ask for would be pleased to hear from you at any time in the future and will enclose my permanent address P.O.Box 424, Venice Calif. mail there will reach me with but slight delay due to the fact that I am at all times enroute.

Trusting to hear from you again beg to remain very truly yours,

W. B. Evans

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