

## Berkowitz Letter to Brooklyn Woman Is Sold for \$400

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A letter written two months ago by David R. Berkowitz, the suspect in the "Son of Sam" murders, to a woman who offered him a place to live if he were freed, brought \$400 at an auction held last week by the Charles Hamilton Galleries.

"I'm glad to have you as a friend," the suspect replied to the woman, Rosina Belpedio, in a two-page letter written in pencil on Sept. 11 from the Kings County Hospital. "However, there is a lot of things that can never, never be, such as

the two of us getting together. Whenever I'm going, it will be for a long time, too long." The 24-year-old suspect said that he hoped his letter "cheered" Miss Belpedio and that he hoped "you find someone to love."

Mr. Hamilton said Miss Belpedio, whom he described as a 50-year-old woman living in a "squalid" hotel in Brooklyn, had sold him the letter for \$100. "We took it on a flyer," said Mr. Hamilton, who declined to identify the high bidder yesterday.

The auction, at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, also brought \$6,250 for a two-page handwritten letter from President Richard M. Nixon to an Army general in 1971, thanking the general for his hospitality during a Nixon trip to the Azores.

Mr. Hamilton said the sum was the highest amount ever paid for a letter whose author was still alive—more than twice the amount paid some years ago for a letter written by Jacqueline Onassis.

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