

Wien 27. 3. 1923

Ihre gestohlenen Sachen
 und Dank für die Überantwortung
 des äußerst wertvollen und interessanten
 Briefkastens, den Sie mir nach ausgiebiger
 Prüfung freundlichst zur Verfügung
 stellen. Die Herren über die
 Verkauft von der Kaiserlichen
 Post ist natürlich unmöglich,
 für Sie zu danken.

Freud



A plain postcard from Freud to Noel Teulon Porter, 27 March 1923, International Autograph Auctions Europe, SL, Estepona, Spain, 13 March 2025, lot 1139, estimate: 4,000-5,000 EUR.

Catalogue description

FREUD SIGMUND: (1856-1939) Austrian neurologist, the founder of psychoanalysis. A.L.S., *Freud*, to the recto of a plain postcard, Vienna, 27th March 1923, to Noel Teulon Porter, in German. Freud writes, in full (translated) *'Thank you for sending the extraordinarily interesting little book whose contents positively cries out for analytical interpretation. What the preface says about the origin of the fantasies is obviously impossible'*. Hand addressed by Freud to the verso. **Together with** a copy of the book referred to by Freud, being a hardback edition of *Behind the Nightlight: The By-World of A Child of Three*, described by Joan Maude and faithfully recorded by Nancy Price, published by John Murray, London, January 1913 (third reprint). The book bears several annotations in the hand of Porter as well as his bookplate and an English translation of Freud's letter lightly tipped to the front free endpaper. Some uniform age toning and minor wear to the letter, about VG, 2

Nancy Price's preface to Behind the Nightlight, which purports to recount the beasts and animals imagined by her young daughter (a great-granddaughter of Jenny Lind), states, in part, 'The humour that is to be found in these pages is both conscious and unconscious.....I will attempt no psychological explanation as to how or whence the names etc., came; I can only repeat that they issued from her brain alone, without suggestion of any kind other than her own imagination. They correspond to nothing she has seen, or heard from those among whom her life has been spent. This by-world of hers displays the workings of a child's mind before education has closed the door to spontaneity'.

In their book Bad Guys: A Homosexual History (2022) the writers Huw Lemmey and Ben Miller describe Noel Teulon Porter as 'an eccentric, sandal-wearing prophet' who ran the Half Moon inn at Cambridge, was friends with Havelock Ellis, and who apparently conducted an affair with the anthropologist Gregory Bateson, the husband of Margaret Mead.