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RE: SUICIDE NOTE

Albert D. Osborn
Examiner of Questioned Documents
233 Broadway, New York 7, N. Y.

Osborn, Albert D.; Report RE: Suicide Note (1954-03-18)

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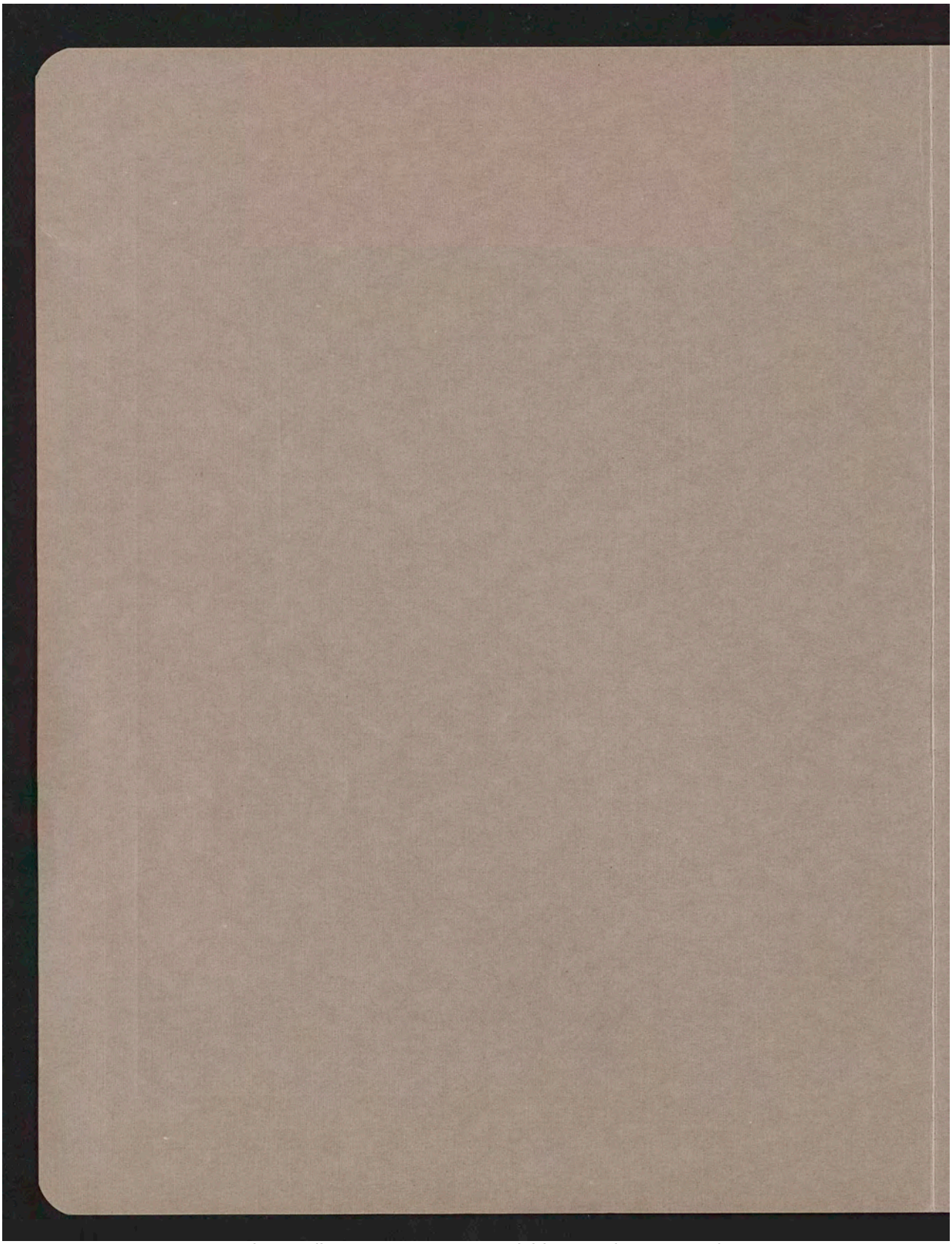

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RE: SUICIDE NOTE

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DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED:

There has been submitted to me a Note reading:

"To my friends My
work is done Why
wait? GE"

For comparison with the writing in this note there is submitted writing on a sketch carrying no date, beginning: "approx measurements" and ending "for GE"; also a photostat of a letter dated March 11, 1932 addressed to "Dear Ellen" and signed "Uncle George".

PROBLEM:

The question to determine, if possible, is whether or not the writer of the signature "Uncle George" and the writing on the sketch wrote the note "To my friends....," etc.

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OPINION:

It would be my best judgment that the writer of these specimens, George Eastman, wrote the note "To my friends My work is done Why wait? GE."

REASONS FOR OPINION:

It would appear to me that the habits shown in the two specimens are the habits in the note "To my friends...," etc.; therefore, I believe that the writer of these specimens wrote the note. Of course the specimens are not near the date of the note, which is always desirable, but the note apparently was written off rapidly and freely and when compared with these specimens shows the same habits.

To illustrate a few of the connections between the writings I have made the enclosed comparison, showing at the left the note, enlarged somewhat, and at the right specimens of writing of George Eastman.

The writing in the note is, of course, much larger and it was written with a heavier pen; but the habits appear to me to be the same--for example, the appearance of the final "s" in "friends" as compared with "wks" just to the right where the letter is made very small and above the base line. Again, the identity in the final "s" is shown on the next line in the word "is" from

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the note and at the right at the end of the word "exactness". Here, the size of the letter and the finishing stroke are distinctly the same. Of course, in the note the rather wide pen made the parts of the "s" run together but, plainly, the habits are the same.

Again, referring to "friends" on the first line of the note, the rather high finish to the letter before the "s" is a habit of the writer, as shown by the final "d" in "required" at the right where the finish does not come to the base line immediately.

Referring to the word "done" on the second line of the note, the manner of making the final "e" and especially the finishing stroke out to the right with a slight compound curve is the same as the final "e" in "George" at the right of the comparison.

In the word "wait" from the note, the continuous final "t" is the same habit as at the right in the word "not". Of course it is not exactly the same by any means as the word "not" is written very small and obviously the writer was writing with much more ease in this writing on the old sketch; but, still, the habit is the same.

On the note the rather wide small "w" in "work" on the second line, in "why" on the third line and in "wait" shows the habit at the right in "wks" on the first line.

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The initials "GE" on the note are clearly the same, in my opinion, as at the right in the word "George" and in the initials "GE" following the word "for." Of course, when I say the same I do not mean exactly the same, as a writer does not write exactly the same each time he writes his name or initials. But the habits here, especially in the "G" with the long, narrow loop at the bottom, the connecting of this "G" with the "E", and the high finish to the "E", plainly show the same habits at the left and at the right of the comparison.

Further, the manner of writing, the rapidity and speed in these initials on the note and in the specimens, shows the same habit; and from the many identities in the two writings and the manner in which the note is written--that is, rapidly and freely, I am convinced that it was actually written by George Eastman.

Respectfully submitted,

Albert D. Osborn

New York
March 18, 1954
ADO/mo'l

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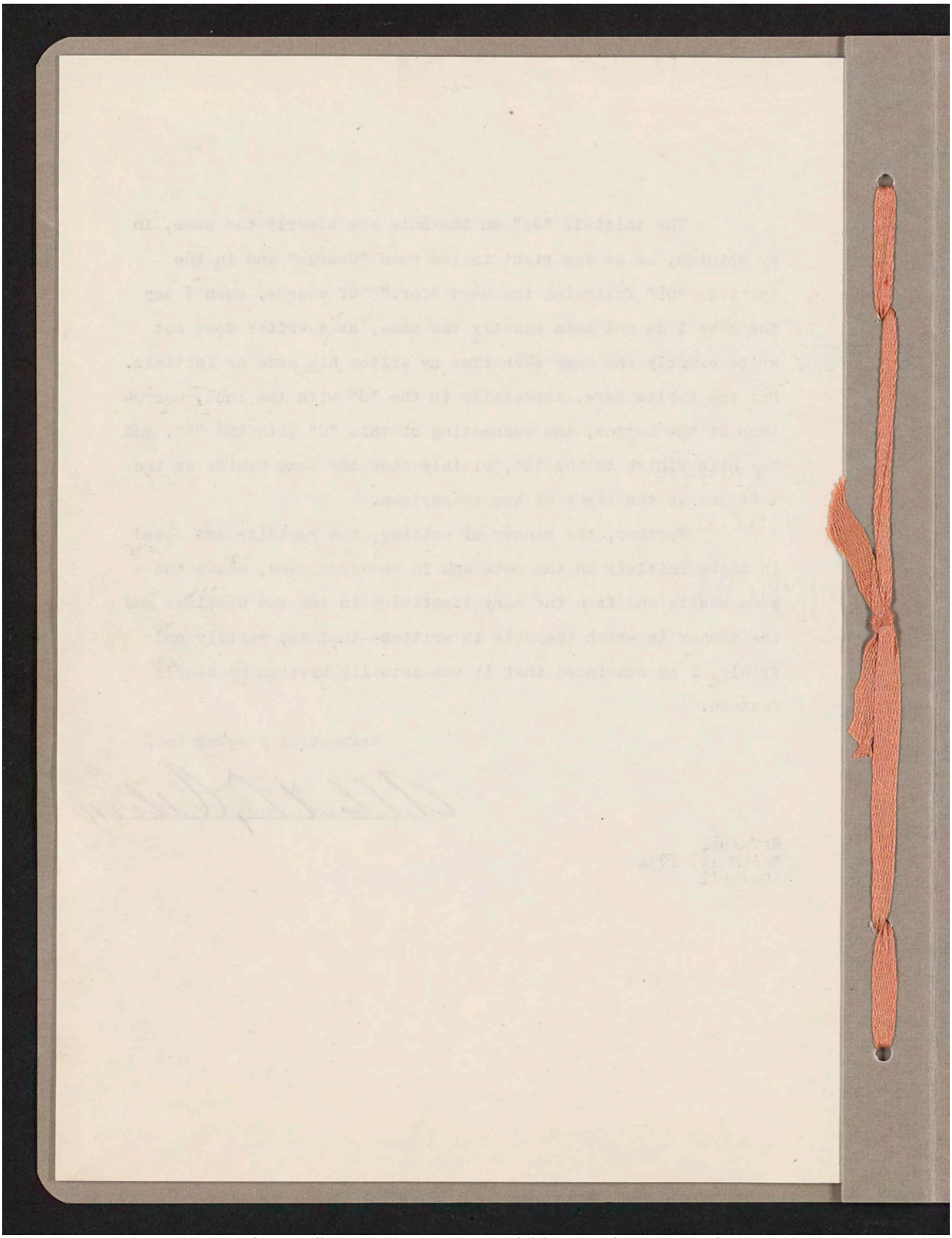

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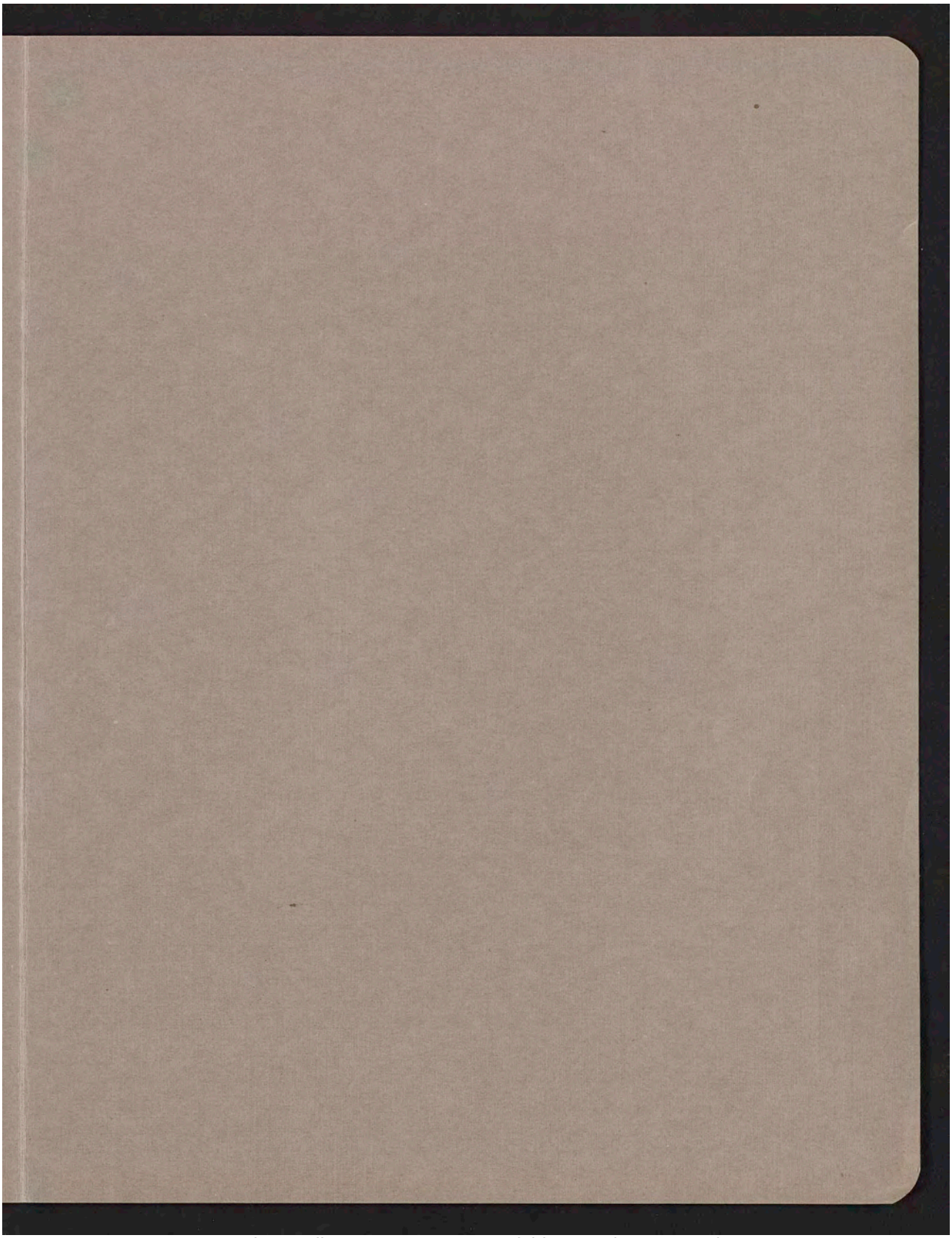

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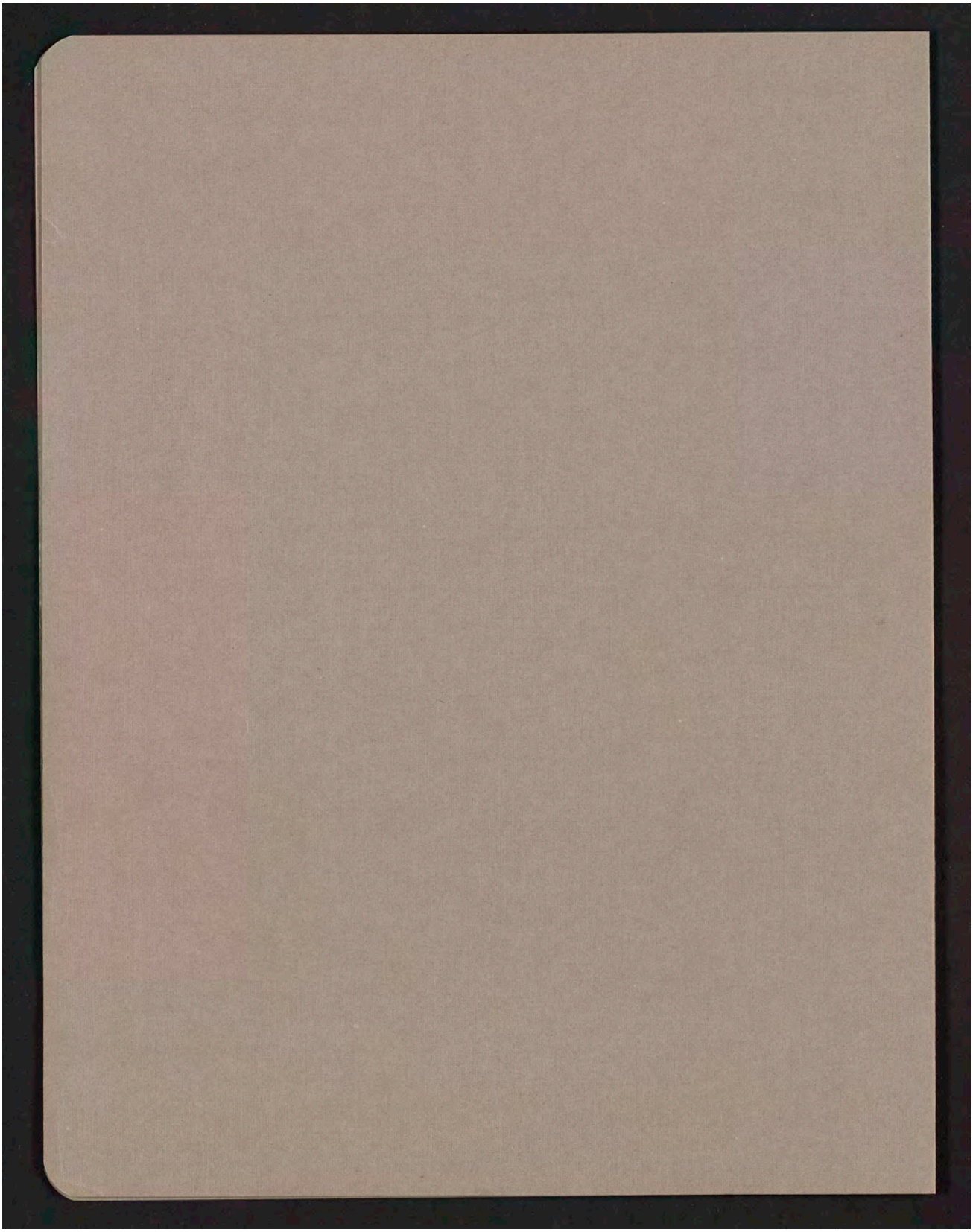

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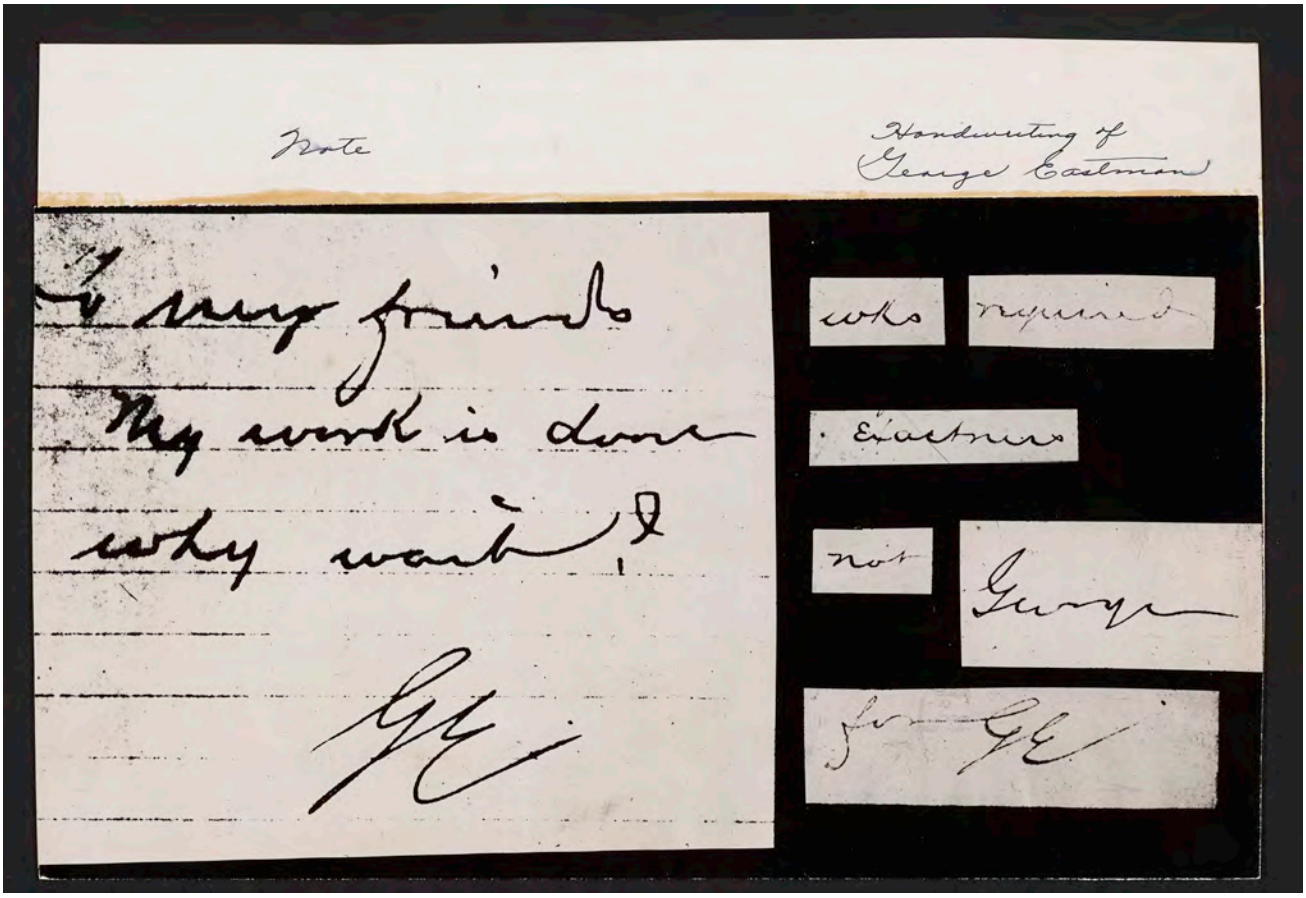

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