EASTERN STEAMSHIP COMPANY

General Offices, Fosters Wharf

Boston Mass

Camden, March 10, 1913

Mr F L Bates
Memphis
Tenn

Dear Sir:

Yours of the 7th duly received and it affords me much pleasure to enclose to you herewith a picture of Booth which I have had some forty years or more and how I came by it is as follows.

In 1861 he was on the stage in Boston and as you know of course was admired wherever he appeared, especially by the fair sex and one young lady of the 400 of that city was so completely charmed with him that she used to send him flowers every night without her card therein and when he finally found out who sent them, he sent the lady this enclosed picture with his autograph thereon and when she died she gave it to a relative of mine and that relative gave it to me. It is of no real value to me but I have just kept it as a souvenir but shall some time give it to one of the family. I intended to give it to his brother, Edwin, which I knew well (on the stage) but he died before I got around to it. Of course, I shall trust to your honor to return it to me after you have taken copies of it, if you wish. Please observe the right eyebrow and the cane in the right hand as in your narrative and if you have a sample of the handwriting of John H Wellen, please compare them. If you had had the picture at the time you wrote the history I don't know as it would have helped you any as you have proofs enough that J. Wilkes Booth was never captured. I am satisfied that you have the story right and so do the skeptics after reading the history. I never knew there was such a book published till I stumbled onto it with one of my neighbors.

There is one thing not mentioned in your history and that is what disposal was made of the remains of Booth but perhaps it is policy not to say anything about it.

I want Mr Chas W Eliot, formerly Pres. of Harvard University, to see the book and hear his opinion. He is with us often during the summer.

I would like to meet you if you ever come this way and if you should, you will find me on Str "J G Morse" running between Rockland and Bar Harbor. I hope to hear from you again.

Yours very truly,

J. A. Cosmet.

Can I procure a copy of the book by sending to publishers?

J.A.C.