



*United States Attorney  
Southern District of New York*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**HISTORIAN PLEADS GUILTY TO STEALING HISTORIC LETTERS  
WRITTEN BY WASHINGTON AND LINCOLN**

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that historian EDWARD J. RENEHAN, JR. pleaded guilty today in Manhattan federal court to interstate transportation of stolen property, based on his theft and subsequent sale of letters written by George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. The plea was entered before United States Magistrate Judge RONALD L. ELLIS. According to the Information to which RENEHAN pleaded guilty:

RENEHAN stole from the Theodore Roosevelt Association, among other things: a letter written on March 1, 1840 by Abraham Lincoln, and two letters written by George Washington on August 9, 1791 and December 29, 1778, respectively. RENEHAN then resold the letters through a Manhattan gallery for a total of approximately \$97,000.

RENEHAN, age 51, of North Kingstown, Rhode Island, faces a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison. He also faces a maximum fine of the greater of \$250,000 or twice the gross gain or loss from the offenses, as well as restitution to the victims. Sentencing is scheduled for August 21, 2008 before United States District Judge DENNY CHIN.

Mr. GARCIA praised the work of the National Park Service in the investigation of this case.

Assistant United States Attorney MARK LANPHER is in charge of the prosecution.