



THE HOME OF DISTINCTIVE PLANTS

TOICHI DOMOTO

26591 Sorensen Lane, Hayward, California

April 12, 1939.

Dear Kan,

This letter was to have been written last week, but as Yuri has already let you know, Wak was taken sick with appendicitis and had to be operated on. She took sick week ago Monday and it wasn't until Thursday that she was operated on. Luck was with us Kan or I am afraid that this letter would have to be written in a much different frame of mind. The pus sac had formed around the busted appendix and kept the matter from spreading thruout her system or peritonitis would have resulted.

I went to see her last night and related your letter to her about your rides home. She insists that there must have been a twinkle in your eye when you sit next to his Nibs with your old dirty clothes like the time you shoved your finger thru the straw hat. She was feeling blue the night before according to Yuri, but I am sure that your message did her a lot of good.

Mr. and Mrs. Senda also called. They told me that Tanabes mother had a stroke this last Monday and is confined to the hospital.

Wak is now out of danger and considering the seriousness of the thing doing remarkably well. Doctors are all marvelling about it.

The wind is starting to rattle the windows now. It would be so just when the peonies are starting to look good. They are nearly two weeks late this year. Peak bloom won't be until some time next week. Some of the seedlings in boxes are very fine this year. Many of the ones marked single are having 15 instead of 10 petals. We have cut the prices on some of them in order to start moving them. The seedlings are coming out good too. Grafts look excellent and Boy does Pa know how to rub it in. The three small scions he robbed of the yellow Mrs. Harding also took, so you can imagine how he feels. The wilt is not near as bad this year yet. Holding my fingers crossed. Can't type that way so will knock on table.

Kumashikas are in full bloom now. Shipped over 600 flowers to Eric for Easter, but I am afraid that most of them rotted with the same fungous disease, if the sample box which I packed and kept here is any indication.

Thompkins and Milbraith are both working on it but so far have not been able to give me any help.

Our wisrtarias ave very good now. We are sending a double flowered one to Podestas and another to the Fair for display. Those large ones were all trained flat this season and they sure look good.

Flowering cherries are also in full blast. Just can't get to labeling all of them. The hot spell of last week is bringing everything into flower at once much like the eastern Spring.

Kausen Brothers from Eureka were here last week, they said to be sure and call at their Nursery in Queens.

Frank Nonaka is helping uson Sundays now.

A couple of Sundays ago, Uncle came over to the Nursery and Pa told him to sit down in the sun and rest for a while. The Darn guy stretched out on the shavings near the Abies pinsapo bed and Watanabe saw him there, He came running to me all excited to tell me that someone was "Korogateru ka nete iru". I took it might be a tramp, but when I went to look and saw Unc you can bet your boots, the holy ones, that my heart sure missed a beat or so. I called Unc, and the darn guy wakes up and says what "Nane? Relieved, but it kind of made me sore. He must of caught Hell from Mrs. when he got home because the shavings and dirt must have been on his clothes. The upshot was they rang up to find out if he had fallen or was actually asleep. Pa got hell too for letting him rest on the wet ground. The two were sympathizing with each other this Sunday." Yu no tame ne unto shika rare ta zo. Kondo kara yasumu no nara ore ga uta toko de yate kure". So ends this tale.

The young camellias over in the green house have all started to make new growth. Arajishi sure put on a growth. with lots of breaks. All the magnolias are also in leaf now. Pa wants to plant some into galon cans to grow on for cheap retail and wholesale sale this fall. Might be O. K. as we have noticed an increase in the sale of plants of smaller size around 1.50 size and under.

Sold the smaller of the weeping cherries to Orinda, and the Large pink wistaria standard to Ross. I boosted the ante on it from 40.00 to 50.00 in the morning and then Tommy Church came and bought for his job. Net results still same.

One of the Chinese elms was sent to Reeves to rplace the Akebono variegated which did not do so well. nearly dead now.

Meeting tomorrow night at the Florence in Niles, they have enlarged the rooms so that it will accommodate our crowd.

Garden Clubs are visiting now, and was said that Mondays crowd was more comparing hats that flowers. However the Sacramento bunch yesterday was a good buying crowd. All regretted having been to California first.

Nearing the end of the page, don't know how close, but will close as my eyes are getting that way too.

Niich.

Niich



THE HOME OF DISTINCTIVE PLANTS

TOICHI DOMOTO

26591 Sorensen Lane, Hayward, California

Friday
March 25, 1939.

Dear Kan,

I am about half way finished with my correspondence as usual, Was over to Palo Alto to a new Business Men's Garden Club to give a talk. last night so I am getting a little slæpy already. Kiler and Cowan are some of the leading lights. Albert Wilson I understand kind of horned his way uninvited into the group the last meeting, was told that the group was purely invitaional, as some of the the members being from the Deep South, you know what that means.

The Japanese Commission had you credited with $9\frac{1}{2}$ days and there was \$47.50 in your envelope. The fellows that Johnny brought over were given $1\frac{1}{2}$ days pay so I paid Johnny \$12.50 on that Basis. I noticed on todays letter that I was to pay him only \$10.00.

The pine tree in the center of the pond sunk down below water level and had to be raised. They came over to borrow the Jack, when I told them that it would cost \$6.50 to send it over and call for it again. Came back washed off too, It pays to set a price on a thing.

I am sending the five rolls of films which I had ordered, but didn't know where to send. Take anything you want with them. Don't feel that it has to be Nursery pictures. Let it be something that you can turn back to later.

The weather is lousy, neither rain nor sun, occasional drizzl or "fog". We have just finished hoeing the weeds from the peony patches by the Lath haouse and by the cypresses. If weather keeps this way will put on about thre or four extras and get the weeds hoed out.

The few seedling quinces which were planted with the other grafts are coming along fine. Have a nice double white of the dwarf type, and Boy O Boy and good deep Orange Double. Wait until W. B. Clarke sees this one. Getting some good breaks in the flowers in this patch, either fair or no darn good at all. Grubbing the poor ones as soon as they flower.

The grafted peonies are showing pretty good percentage and you know I believe that unless we watch out the swelling in Pas front is likely to become pretty much up as well as down.

2

I got in 1,000 more camellia understocks from Star and have grafted some of the better sorts, Pa and Mas with Watanabâ as helper is doing most of the grafting. Have put in about 150 reticulata grafts on the Bigow plants in the upper lath. Jock promised me some more wood for next season. He said that this year he would have to keep them as too many guys are watching what he does with them.

The Pink Stars were quite large with us this year also and the sad part is no stock saleable. However there is quite a few scattered here and there in the Lath house and in a couple of seasons should be fine plants.

Some one stole a branch of C. M. Hovey and Pa was sorer than a Hoot Owl, but when I told him about a "bird" that had cut some Marchioness of Exeter scions from Doty's plant not a word was forthcoming, except to say that flowers should be removed to prevent temptation.

The films turned out quite clear and as soon as I get a little time will correlate your letter and pictures. I wired to the Flower wood Nursery for 250 alba plenas in the lining out size, at 20 cents each as quoted to you, but have not heard from them yet. Shipped Solomon's order yesterday.

Overlooks 100 daphne and 5 Flame rooted cutting plants were also sent. Will send for the better ones you mentioned in your letter from Sawata and also from Kiyono as soon as I get Kiyonos list so as to compare prices.

If there are some that you feel I should get in preference to others even in the larger sizes, please send me list of them as soon as possible. Did you see any that looked like Climax. This came out very large and quite regular shaped this year. Everyone liked it and when I tried to get some plants from Coolidge and Armstrong they did not have any.

Our Kishu tukasa is also in bloom. It looks good.

In regard to Sakurai, if the work is not of sufficient educational value, don't hesitate to quit it and start looking for the best school for your work, as after all education is what you are after now and not work. Feel free to do this and as for the monetary side don't feel that you have to make your way, as you have already made it. As I said before as soon as you need it just let me know and I am sure that the business will stand sending you \$75.00 to 100.00 per month. It is accrued wages due you.

Mr. Mueh and Mrs. were over a week ago and asked about you as did Mrs. Scannavino. They will no doubt write as soon as I let them know your address. Jim sends his regards and best wishes.

We are getting a lot of Oregon and Washington Visitors at the nursery last week, mostly people who saw the plants at the Fair. We brought all the vcamealias back a week ago, have some quinces and Kaido on display now.

Will close now as it is getting late and will have a busy day tomorrow, if it doesn't rain. Frank Nonaka is to come from this Sunday, altho Mas and myself with Super salesman Pa assisted by Tino have been doing quite well.

Frisbees were here and asked to be remembered to you. Their camellias are doing quite well now and they are looking for some more.

Oyasumi,

Niich.

Just happened to think, try and get a good
Beef noodle with this.



THE HOME OF DISTINCTIVE PLANTS

TOICHI DOMOTO

26591 Sorensen Lane, Hayward, California

June 7, 1939.

Dear Kan,

Should have answered before, but the same old excuse.

We have been having some very windy days and it sure dries things up, makes me wish we had some of that thunder and shower. However the Skinner has to do the job.

The season is over now, and have been having it quite easy. Frank Nonaka helped until the 28th of May, which allowed Mas to take most of his Sundays off. I think about 5 Sundays was all he had to put in.

The Japanese Irises are now in bloom, but very very poor. Should have transplanted them last year. Have started a plot by the old tank, and will plant them in rows rather than in beds as I think it will be easier to keep clean and separate. The leaves on the ones in the field are very yellow, but the few left overs in the boxes and the group planted by the drinking fountain are sure nice.

We have finished the planting of young camellias and are heavy after the weeds now. We still have a large number in pots, which are being shifted into 3s and later into 4s. The magnolias came thru in fine shape and have been set out into the lath house. (1 bed) the balance is being planted into galon cans.

The grafted camellias took quite well, all except the Sodekakushi, which for some reason just didn't altho the best stocks were used for them. The pink bihows which were used for stock to graft the reticulatas on may be a little better but still none too hot. Evidently the affinity of reticulata (Chinese) for japonica is none to amiable. The few cuttings which were made last year have rooted. Pa grafted a few Colonel Fireys on the Chinensis vareigated which were planted in egg cans and do you believe it or not every one took. You can't tell his chest from stomach now.

He started on his magnolias again. I have just finished the cuttings this evening. These were the conspicuas from Centerville. about 250 cuttings.

Have sold some lining out stock in camellias this year, but not the best ones. The Grandiflora roseas which were in 3s when you left are now getting ready to make new growth again in

the green house. Planning to keep the better ones there to force growth into them.

The peonies were quite good this year and if it hadn't been for the wilt believe that we could have sold a lot of them, as it is we are pushing the seedlings more and more. The germination on this years lot is very good. City of San Francisco bought some more again, for the Millbrae place.

I was down to Mrs. Eggleston at Brookdale on Monday. She certainly has a nice place, but too shaded for rhododendrons to do well. All growth and no flowers. The azaleas especially the japonicas and the Kurumes have done well.

A Mr. Wada who is a broker and exporter from Japan came thru about a month ago, and was surprised at the size of our tree peonies. We told him about the poor way the varieties were labeled, and he said that it was almost impossible to get them to get the right ones especially if a number of one kind is ordered. 10% allowance for mixing is what he gives the growers. We asked him if he would accept an order from us on that basis and he declined to take it. He told us about some new Japanese strain of irises which I think I'll import this year. He says that they are on the order of the Komochi guma type, petals with lots of substance and horizontal.

The Russell Lupines were much better this year, should have taken better care of them. Harry Korematsu grew about 10,000 in gallon cans and has been selling them wholesale at 50 cents each. he started off at 65 but dropped to 50. His stock plants were under cheese cloth and they looked lots better as the diabroticas do not get at them.

I guess I mentioned to you in the last letter that Frank Reinelt won the Gold Medal for the most distinctive show in the Garden Show this year. I was sure glad that he got it and not the orchids again. Second place to Peter Valinga for his bulbous material. Howard Gilkey got a free trip to Merrie England to see the Chelsea Show. Flew to New York right after the Show here and took the Queen Marie from there. Lucky guy. Show must have made money.

I did not have the fifty good peonies to display in the first place and secondly space would have been too small, but the dozen which I took down did the same thing. They did not make an award on it but allowed me the fifty dollars. Won 17.50 for best six wistarias, used the two large white ones and added some smaller ones to get my number. 12.50 for best four specimen maples. Not enough to pay for handling them. but better than I expected to get.

Jim Crombie came out very well with his rose display, beat California and stocking as well as Jackson & Perkins. He started his Sale the 1st of June. He plans to get rid of all the general stock and just handle roses, which will allow him to handle the farm during the summer and fall and the rose business during the winter and spring.

Enclosing a snap shot of Miss Kate Sessions and Pa taken last month

Mr. Baldocchi took a picture of Pa and send us two large enlargements. They are sure dandies, you can almost feel him moving his lips to say something. If they weren't so large I would mail them to you.

Mis Sessions is 83 and still as spry as many women 20 years younger.

Wann't able to obtain any of the camellias earlier from Overlook or ##### Kiyono as I was too busy to look over the list make out my wants, However I shipped them some Flame and a few small plants rooted cuttings of Sodekakushi to Kiyono about two weeks ago. He is going to send me the plants this fall.

About Clematis, if you get a chance to get to Fairport, N. Y. wherever that is in New York State, make notations of the better clematis and if not too much in price order some for shipment to me care of Enomoto, 159 - 5th Street S. F. and have him mail amount right away and I will air mail check to him so that he can have it before shipping is he wants. If too far out of the way don't bother.

I did not get out the camellia catalog this spring either. Hope that I will sufficient stock to list this fall to warrant a list.

The Gardeners are all working at Shibatas. They finished the rock work today and plan to start on the major planting right away. It sure make a difference in looks. The Gilroy Hot Spring Job is phooey. I understand they have no funds.

What do you think about having them put in a small garden on the Nursery if they have time. If so where do you suggest it. and of the two types they have done which do you think will be better from the advertisement point of view. Let me know right away on this as it will take some planning if we decide to do it.

Taki Domoto and his family left for Japan last Thursday. I saw them off.

About camera, do you think a good used one can be purchased in New York, to better advantage than from Misumi if so let me know. Do you think same type as last is O. K. or would you suggest some other. Find out what you can there and then I will take it up with Misumi if none is available at advantage, in New York. We have been enjoying the pictures which you have taken and except for a few feet in which they were a little dark the films have been dandy.

Don't worry about the funds if you decide to go into school right away. Experience is fine, but much better if you have the theoretical with it. Let me know as soon as you have found out something definite on this. Don't feel that you have to

make enough to pay your way thru. You have already made it in the Nursery and will be yours.

Typing on the back of the page to save another sheet and and an extra 6 cents.

Nursery meeting tomorrow night in Oakland. Will remember you to the bunch. They always ask of you.

Finish

Went to the nursery to get some of the camellias earlier from Overlook Nursery as I was too busy to look over the list made by my wife. However I shipped them some films and a few small plants rooted cuttings of Japanese to Kiyono about two weeks ago. He is going to send me the plants this fall.

about camellias. If you get a chance to get to Lafayette, N. Y. wherever that is in New York State, make notations of the better climatic and if not too much in price order some for shipment to me care of Domoto, 132 - 5th Street S. T. and have him mail amount right away and I will air mail check to him so that he can have it before shipping is he wants. If too far out of the way don't bother.

I did not get out the camellia catalog this spring either. Hope that I will sufficient stock to list this fall to warrant a list.

The gardeners are all working at Shibata. The finished the work today and plan to start on the major planting right away. It sure make a difference in looks. The Gilroy Hot Spring job is phooey. I understand they have no funds.

What do you think about having them put in a small garden on the Nursery if they have time. If so where do you suggest it and of the two types they have done which do you think will be better from the advertisement point of view. Let me know right away on this as it will take some planning to do it.

Taki Domoto and his family left for Japan last Thursday. I saw them off.

About camera, do you think a good used one can be purchased in New York, to better advantage than from Miami if so let me know. Do you think same type as last is O. K. or would you suggest some other. Find out what you can there and then I will take it up with Miami if none is available at advantage in New York. We have been enjoying the pictures which you have taken and except for a few feet in which they were a little dark the films have been dandy.

Don't worry about the funds if you decide to go into school right away. Experience is fine, but much better if you have the theoretical with it. Let me know as soon as you have found out something definite on this. Don't feel that you have to

March 18

1939

RECEIVED

OF

Kaneji Donato

Twelve and $\frac{50}{100}$ Dollars

For $2\frac{1}{2}$ days work on Peasare Island

\$ 12⁵⁰

Pos hi J. Ans

TOICHI DOMOTO

26591 SORENSEN LANE
HAYWARD, CALIF.

"The Home of Distinctive Plants"



Mr. Kan Domoto

135- 01 Cherry Avenue

Flushing , New York.