



UNIVERSITY of CALIFORNIA  
**BOTANICAL  
GARDEN**  
ESTABLISHED 1890

October 5, 1998

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Domoto,

Thank you so much for making time in your busy reunion schedule for Elaine Sedlack and me. It was a great pleasure and honor to meet you both, and a real thrill to share Kan's pictures.

Since we have found you, maybe in your leisure (if you have any) you could enlighten us a bit about the Botanical Garden's Japanese Pool. In the absence of anyone local who was here when it was constructed, a number of rather odd stories have sprung up about its origin. It would be tremendously useful to have the correct information. So...

Is it true that the rock work was a part of the Japanese exhibit at the 1939 World's Fair on Treasure Island? If so, how did the University of California come to acquire it? If so, was Kan involved in the original design? If so, is the Botanical Garden installation significantly different from the World's Fair exhibit? If the rocks were not part of the World's Fair, how did they come to the Botanical Garden? Legend has it that they came from Japan. Is this true? Legend also has it that there were originally 3 lanterns instead of just 1. Do you remember how many there were?

How did Kan get involved with the project? Did you have anything to do with the World's Fair exhibit? How did the rocks get from Treasure Island to Strawberry Canyon? Did the pool already exist, or did the pool happen because of the rocks? Do you remember any particular challenges or amusing incidents that occurred during the project? And when did the project happen? Right after the World's Fair, or after W.W.II?

Only a few questions, as you see. And if you don't have, or can't remember what the answers might be, that's OK. It was, after all, a long time ago.

I hope that the rest of your reunion pilgrimages were satisfactory, and that you'll feel like revisiting the Garden one day. We'll certainly look forward to it!

Sincerely,

Nancy Swearingen



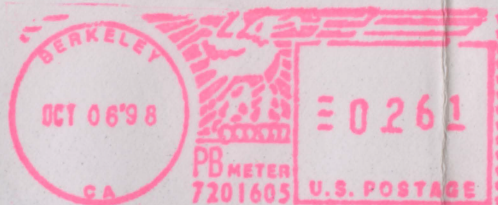


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