

Mar 19 '40

Dearest Tomoyo & Martha:

I have just returned home from a long loop of speaking dates in Imperial & San Diego Counties to find your huge box waiting for me. I cannot tell you too quickly or too strongly how pleased I am with its contents.

Elizabeth's doll is perfectly exquisite, and when we are settled in more expansive quarters will have a chance to display herself as she should. I am so pleased by her - so deeply appreciative of your thoughtfulness that I cannot use the word "delighted", as carrying too much overtone of lightness. I do want you to know how very much I thank you for your gift to my

child. That young activist can have no contact with her doll, however, for many years. If she continues her present robust tastes, nothing short of cast iron can be trusted within sight, let alone reach, for years to come.

I continue hoping that it will be possible to have her care supervised by a Japanese-speaking housekeeper, & that fairly soon. The long convalescence which Japan must undergo after her devastating present illness should be over & Americans really valuable in her life once more by the time C. is grown. No other language, I think, can pay higher dividends to a Pacific Coast child.

Did you ever know me when my plans were not in process of abrupt change? After reasonable certainty that before Boy's day all three of us + most of our belongings would be settled together down here, our Bureau's funds are threatened to the place where my job is evaporating June 1.

Don't be apalled too soon! I have been asked to head a newly created Bureau of Health Education, serving as coordinator between State Dept. of Public Health & Education. It is a tremendous compliment, & I am so elated with being approached as to be almost unlivable. The offer is not formal yet, but it has <sup>I have</sup> been tentatively approached twice.

My own chief came down to San Diego to discuss it. I pointed out that

that I thought no one but he could really appreciate how much of what I had learned to do had been learned on my job. I said that I still felt the State Dep't owed me a year of post-graduate training for not letting me go to Japan. He said flatly that if I had ruined the program by going last fall, this present offer would never have been made. A long time to find a reason for being less resentful!

I am sitting bolt upright, learning to be comfortable, if obid. My being uneasy has two causes, the first being psychological: all my memories of properly worn Japanese clothes are tied up with small-boned people's doll-like perfection, not my cowlike size. Your obi is so nice that I feel well-dressed, but it probably will

Take me a little while to be relaxed in my new dignity. I like it very much, and right as wrong, feel that it is not so elaborate but that it is suited to my modest middleclass life. If I am transferred to San Francisco, will you shop with me for another and slightly more elaborate kimono than my present washables?

Your library of Japanese life seems an excellent idea. I am more & more convinced that information about any big field is of use. There is no specialty to <sup>detailed</sup> small, to be impossible as a source of livelihood - witness the dividends paid by my reading in health education - certainly big things like oceanography or study of a national culture can be made to do so.

The results of past power politics in the East & the Baltic should give us all reasons for being thankful for being Americans — but we haven't seen the end of our grief yet, I'm afraid.

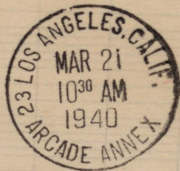
Wednesday night —

A very long, full day & evening have been interposed between installments — I doubt its being worth waiting for.

I think I'm going to scoot up to San Francisco this weekend to sign the papers for the job. The bosses apparently considered my acceptance definite! If so, I'll try to catch you by phone to thank you verbally for your superlatively thoughtful gifts.

Affectionately  
Helen.

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