

Dai Nippon  
Moji-shi  
Iionmura-machi  
1-chome  
2783  
November 30 1939

My Dearest Tomoyo . . .

I received your letter written on November 4th and mailed in Japan when I returned from Kyoto and Tokyo on November 27th. I was very happy to hear from you.

I was surprised to hear that you had apparently not received my letter which I sent you from Hawaii on the 18th of October when our boat landed there. I also mailed my postcards and letters to other persons in the United States, including Mr. Crowley from whom I received a very nice letter thanking me for writing to him. I hope that the letter reached you since I enclosed a lot of pictures in a huge brown envelope plus a long letter of my trip to Hawaii. If it's gone, then it won't be replaced, though I still have the negatives for the pictures. I also wrote something for the paper but I guess they didn't use it, ne?

About the Japanese papers--Hosho, Torinoko and Hanshi. I went down to the paper store in Moji and looked at the various types of papers. Since I know nothing of paper I did not know whether the ones they showed me were the kind that you desired. However, all they showed me looked far from what you described in your letter. They said that paper was getting scarce in Japan and that the government is controlling the making of paper. Nowadays, the price of writing paper have practically doubled and the grade of paper have fallen considerably since we were last in Japan. And since Moji is such a small city, the paper stores in this city are allotted only certain kinds of paper, most of them of the poorer quality. Since I did not see anything (except Hosho) which looked like anything you described in your letter, I did not purchase any. I hope that you will pardon me for not getting any for you. I do hope that you will manage to prepare something for your friends during this Christmas and New Year season. I wonder if you can enclose some samples of paper that you want in the next letter so that I can get some for you when I visit Tokyo? This way I will be sure that I will be getting the right thing. I hope you'll understand that I did not purchase any paper since I thought it better not to do so rather than buy the wrong thing.

Alfred Baum from Colusa wrote to me, darling. He wrote in katakana. I guess I'll send him a Xmas card. The pictures were swell. That one of you and me at the Pavilion is pretty good, ne? You look as lovely as usual in your pictures. I looked at them over and over again many times. I can almost hear your voice as I gaze at your photographs. I have them before me as I am typing this letter. I feel as though you are beside me.

After looking at various camera shops in Japan, especially in Okyo, Osaka and Kyoto, I have come to the conclusion that one should buy a camera in America before coming to Japan. Our Ikonflex, second hand, costs around 500 yen. I saw several which cost around there, though they looked in a worse condition. Contax and Leicas cost over 1,000 yen. In fact, you can't purchase a good camera for less than 500 yen. And you can't buy any American film since there aren't any here to buy even if they cost a hundred yen. I still have a lot of film so I guess I won't run out of film before I sail. There are a lot of Japanese film in the stores so I won't need any while in Japan.

Talking about phenomenal prices, typewriters in Japan cost a fortune. A second hand Underwood (rebuilt) which retails for about 60 dollars in the USA was being displayed in a Kyobunkan book store in Ginza for 750 yen. So you can imagine how much a brand new Underwood Portable would cost today. We entered a store in Moji, my father and I, and inquired about the cost of a new typewriter (making believe that we needed one) and found that any fabulous sum around a thousand yen or over was feasible. I think that I'll sell mine before I return to the United States. With this sizeable profit I'll buy a lot of presents home to you and some others. I'll try to get something for our home, ne darling? What would you suggest that I should get for our future home? I will be anxiously awaiting your reply since the money from the selling of this typewriter will be at your (and mine) beck and call. Of course I'll get a tansu for you. But how about other things that will be of use and value? Such as Japanese style lamp shades and stands, unique wood carvings, lacquer goods, books, clothing, and sundry things not securable in the United States. I do hope that you make unlimited suggestions. In the meantime I'll do as much useful purchasing as I see fit. But please don't tell anyone about the price of typewriters in Japan. Someone might get wise and start selling typewriters, then I will get too much competition. I can see a pretty good field ahead of me now that I have visited Japan.

About the books that you wanted to buy in Japan. People in Japan, especially Minoru Hinoda who is quite informed concerning such things, and Welly Shibata, have influenced me and have urged me to tell you that it is better to get the books which were published in America and London in the United States. They believe that such books would be more easily obtained in America and would probably be much cheaper in the United States, since most of those books are already bought and kept by the interested people in Japan and are hardly seen in the book stores. Only on rare occasions can one find most of the books mentioned in your list (which were published in the United States or in England). There are many people, especially foreigners, who are on the lookout for such books that they are very difficult to obtain. However, Welly took me to a store in Kobe where many of the books that you mentioned were being sold, plus numerous other books in things Japanese. I was advised by the proprietor of the store to purchase most of the books abroad if possible. I was also advised to purchase the books published in Japan while in Japan, especially since most of them will soon be gone from the shelves and since they are practically out of print now, such as Hizakurige published around 1937. The proprietor said that the modern books on things Japanese are just as good if not better than those printed in the olden days and advised me not to go home without them.

I heard good news concerning B.H. Chamberlain's Things Japanese from the proprietor of the book store. He said that his latest book, that is, revised edition of the book, "Things Japanese with footnotes by W.G. Aston will come out this coming January and that he will get one for us for 8 yen. Ordinarily it would cost us 10 yen but we are in the 'in-group' so we are having that discount. According to him, this book is the best of the revised editions. He attaches no value to the older editions, saying that there are many inaccuracies. Of course, he said, if we liked to compare the old with the new, then it would be all right to purchase an old copy. As for accuracy, he preferred the latest one.

Books printed in America and London are not as cheap here as we thought. Neither are they as plentiful. I bet we can get better bargains in the San Francisco book stores. However, I'll try to buy all the Japanese printed literature which appear enticing and attractive.

On the 23rd of November, Jun Ajari and I went to the Thanksgiving dinner at the Marble Restaurant in the Meiji Seimei Building in Marunouchi. It was attended by some 1,000 Nisei. There I met Kay Watanabe who confessed that she was your sister. It so happened that she was one of the three persons or sisters to whom I was bringing a package from you and your sister. I have had no time to take it to them as yet. But since Jun and I have already met her, we will not hold back in going to their home some day in the near future. We got her phone number so that we can call her before visiting her home.

At this dinner we also saw Hisayo Wakamatsu, Tamotsu Murayama, Hideo Okusako (that man again) Earl Tanaka and one or two others whom I recognized. It was a boring dinner. The turkey was infinitesimal, not to mention the other courses which accompanied the fowl. Besides partaking a terrible dinner, the program which followed did not alleviate the situation one bit, in fact, it complemented the meal, making the evening very dull and uninteresting. And on top of all that it started to rain just before the end of the party.

On the 24th, Friday, Jun Ajari who had a day off, and I traipsed around Ginza all afternoon. First we ate Sukiyaki at our favorite Uyehira restaurant for 60 sen, then we went to the camera shop near the restaurant on Ginza street where I deposited my films. After that we went to the Japan Tourist Bureau where I received my pass (railroad) for the month of December. There I also received the complete set of the Japan Tourist Bureau publications, 23 in all. They are the pamphlets which sell for 50 sen each on the culture and arts of Japan, such as the Kabuki, Flower Arrangement, Color Prints, et cetera.

That night the wind blew hard and cold. So chilly was the wind that I felt cold down to my marrow. I still had on my San Francisco attire so that I was very very chilly. I caught a bad cold that night and I still have it today. It is not so bad but it bothers me and keeps me from traveling around the country.

Friday

And so, on that cold Saturday night I took a train to Kyoto. It left Tokyo around 10 p.m. I arrived in Kyoto the next morning where Minoru Hinoda was waiting for me. From there the two of us went to Kobe (Sannomiya Station) where we had previously made a date with Welly Shibata to buy the books in Kobe for you. We met Welly at 11 a.m. Saturday at the Sannomiya Station. He took us to Kobe's Chinatown where we ate some "shumai" among other things. It was swell. He said that I could get "shumai" in San Francisco. Can we, darling?

After our Chinese meal we went to Tompson bookstore where we saw a lot of books on Japanese culture. That was where the proprietor told us a lot of things about buying Japanese books in Japan.

Since Welly had to get back to work, we hurried out of the bookstore, not purchasing a thing, and walked Kobe's Motomachi-dori. I plan to return to the book store later, darling. Then we parted with Welly at the Sannomiya station. Minoru Hinoda and I then went to locate Ferdinand Okada's home. We finally found it. We met his father who is a very nice person, despite Ferdinand's peculiarities. After talking with him for some time he took us to Kobe's most famed Japanese restaurant, the Kikusui-ro. It is famous the world over. It is one of the most lavishly decorated restaurants in the world, at least of Japan. It has a great number of rooms, each one extensively decorated, each one a miniature replica of some famous place in Japan, such as Nikko, Nara, Miyajima, and the like. Each room must cost a fortune, each replica hundreds of hundreds of yen. There are many original paintings and relics there, besides very good replicas and imitations. The place is owned by a millionaire whose hobby is collecting things belonging to old Japan and reproducing rooms in the manner of famous places and events. Darling, we must go there some time when we come to Japan together. In fact we must go all over Japan together, especially to the places where we have visited so that I can enjoy and have you enjoy the same experiences with me. I am eagerly looking forward to that time when we will be traveling together. A scenery does not seem complete without you beside me.

We, Minoru Shinoda and I, returned to Kyoto that night and I stayed at a Japanese hotel for the first time since I landed in Yokohama on the 28th of October. It was cold that night. Kyoto is especially cold in winter and warm in the summer, more so than its neighboring cities. But I was warm under the blankets.

The next day, Sunday, Minoru and I went to Takao to view the maple leaves. Takao is a beautiful place a short distance from Kyoto. We'll have to go there some day, darling. The maple leaves are gorgeous, there. The view from the hill-top is wonderful.

That night I took a train for Moji. Before reaching Atsumoseki, I got off at Miyajima and visited the Shrine on Himekushima. I took several shots there and then went on my way to Moji. I arrived home safely without any taxi or any such conveyance (I took a bus in the drizzle) that afternoon, Monday, around 3:30 p.m. I have been here ever since.

Well, good night, dear. I have been typing this letter to you ever since 9 p.m. and it is now 10 minutes to 12. I'll have to mail this letter tomorrow morning in order to catch the boat which sails for Vancouver on the 3rd.

Since I am practically rid of my nose cold (I am religiously taking your vitamin pills daily, darling, so my cold was very slight.) I will be heading north ward in the near future. I shall be visiting my relatives in Sendai, and also friends in Hokkaido and around the other side of Japan, the Sen-in route. I'll also visit my grandmother's grave in Nagano-ken, which is near your prefecture. My mother's ancestors came from Nagano-ken in a city called Yuwa. Her people are of the Samurai, though my father's aren't. However, I'll visit both my parents' homes and places before coming back to Moji.

I'll do my traveling in a couple of weeks, then I shall settle down to industrious studying of the Japanese language, as you so very much desire. I'll do my utmost to learn my native tongue that you will be proud of me, darling. When I return I shall also keep up my studies so that in a few years I shall be quite efficient in the Japanese language. I'll apply myself so that I'll learn as fast as possible. I promise, dear. This time I shall not go back on my word. I am learning quite a bit here in Japan since I am forced to converse in Japanese and since I am always being confronted with new words and new ideas.

This is Friday morning, December 1st. I started today's letter from the paragraph beginning with the following words: "Since I am practically rid of etc." It has been raining off and on every day since I returned to Moji. It is not very cold here, but it will be when I go to Hokkaido. However, I'll be fully prepared, since I have the undershirts I bought with you at Weinstein's, and also my topcoat, and other warm underthings which my folks have for me. The only time I'll be really cold is when I go north to Sapporo and Sendai. For that occasion I'll have sufficient warm clothing so that I need not worry. When I'm back in Moji, we have a warm room where we use a stove so that I need not be worried about the wintry weather. Thank you so much for thinking about my health, darling. I do hope that you are enjoying the best of health. About this time last year you were in bed, constantly fearing pneumonia, ne darling? You had me worried all the time then. I was so relieved to see you well again after several weeks. I enjoyed those long phone calls with you every afternoon, those lengthy conversations which did not please your family one bit and which did not help you in getting well as rapidly as one desired.

In a little over two months I'll be back in San Francisco again. I am looking forward to that occasion very eagerly. I do miss you a lot. Now that I am far away, I can look upon our courtship from a perspective. I realize that I can't help but miss you and feel that you are part of me. Well, enough of that sort of thing. I'm getting sentimental and romantic, which I thought was far from my nature.

Best regards to the rest of your family, your father and Martha. I'm glad that you are now corresponding with Helen. I know that she likes you. Thank you so much for asking Helen around, despite the fact that you are so busy. I hope that Helen realizes what you are doing for her.

Well, I had better be closing this letter, for it might not reach the boat in time. I'll be writing to you again soon. It will be Xmas time when this letter reaches you, ne darling?

I'll see you in February,  
Sincerely

Hein

Hon. I. Kashi

Dai Nippon, Moji-cho, Honmura-machi, 1-chome, 2788



米

行

行

MISS TOMOYE NOZAMA  
786 STANYAN STREET  
SAN FRANCISCO  
CALIFORNIA  
U. S. A.