

December 14, 1939

Tomoyo

I am again on a train, this time on my way back from Amori where I visited my uncle, Mr. Kinshiro Gomi - my mother's elder brother.

Amori is famous for its apples as I bought a crate of their best and sent it home to my folks. Amori is also a pretty cold place. Snow had fallen the night before I reached there, in fact it had been snowing since October, so every thing was white when I got off the train.

My uncle was at the station to meet me at 7:15 a.m. It was cold and early. We walked the length of the town before we got to his home - a dairy which supplies all the milk for Amori. It was very interesting walking in

the snow to his residence. We saw the people at work shoveling snow from their store fronts, boys busily pulling loads on sleds, and automobiles plowing through the white streets in chains.

It was warm as we walked through the city (which looks like any other city in Japan) but as we stopped and rested, it grew cold. When we reached home, I did not take off my overcoat, in order to keep warm. Japanese homes are not built for wintry weather. I could feel drafts all over the room. But the "kotatsu" kept my feet warm.

I decided not to visit Hokkaido since I did not have much time left. My train pass expires on the 25th of this month, which is 14 days away. I have yet to see other parts of Japan so I decided to return home so that I can spend my Christmas and

New Year's with the family. I ~~will~~ would
 also like to see as much as I can of Japan
 before the pass expires. After my tour through Japan, I am
 going to settle down to concentrated study
 of the Japanese language. Honest, darling.
 I'll try to return to America with a newspaper
 reading knowledge of Japanese. You just wait
 and see, dear. I'll try to be worthy if you all

At Amori I bought some lacquered
 chopsticks for us - a lovely pair. My uncle said
 that the lacquer work in Amori is excellent
 and that they would last for a long time during
 hot and cold weather. I also bought a pair for
 my parents. And then I bought a tea container
 shaped like a "nasu" or eggplant. It is a beautiful
 piece of lacquer ware. I ought to come in handy
 for our home, ne darling?

At Matsushima I bought an ash tray
made of a huge clam shell. It's rather unique.
We ought to make it a decoration in our home
and also use it for guests. I also bought some
tea coasters made from some kind of wood (I
don't know) which is carved beautifully. I
also bought a piece of shelled snick-knack -
a bird perched on a rock - all made of shells.
Matsushima and Sendai and vicinity is noted
for its shell ware. I was told to

On my way to Moji I think that I
shall visit the umbrella makers at Gifu. I
shall also stop in Nagano-ken and purchase
its famed "shirakaba" art work - landscapes
made from the white birch. They are lovely
creations. They can't be obtained elsewhere.
I am also planning to stop at Kobe
and purchase some of your books and also some

that I might like. The gentleman (American) who is the proprietor of the bookstore (Thompson or a Thomson or something like that) is an interesting fellow. Minoru, Shiroda, and I plan to visit the store together. He is also interested in the same kind of literature. Gosh, darling, I do hope that the books I plan to buy are the ones you want. Anyway, if they are going to be in our library so what's the difference, ne? My, but we're going to have an interesting library. Darling, my money is lasting quite a long time. Isn't that remarkable? Why, I haven't spent much over a 100 yen all together, including gifts and luxuries. You see, I've been staying at relatives' homes and eating half the time at their expense that I have had but a few times when I really spent my money. I brought into Japan 160 yen of my money and 200 yen of

your). Remember, I sold 100 yen and gave 40 yen
away as tips. Anyway, of the 160 yen I have
about 40 yen left, which is wonderful,
considering the fact that I have already been
in Japan for a month and a half. At
that rate I ought to remain in Japan another
month and 1/2 very cheaply, since I won't do
much traveling. However, no matter how it is I
must spend for traveling, which will amount
to quite a respectable sum. If I sell my
typewriter I'll make over 500 yen, I hope,
so that I won't mind about spending a
little more. The way I see it I can
parling would you mind if I sold you
to camera? It sells, retail, for 500 yen
here in Japan (second hand). I can get
it around 400 yen I guess and still make
a good money - figuring on the dollar as

to you. You don't mind, do you? I think I shall sell it, darling, just before I sail. The 100 yen profit I make, I shall spend on some gifts for you and our home. That's okay, ne darling?

My folks are getting used to you, darling. I have already mentioned you to them, ever since I landed. They don't seem to mind, in fact, they have already considered you as part of them. They want to know all about you - you know how parents are. All my cousins in Tokyo are curious about you. They look at your photograph and giggle, since they can't get used to the idea of marriage with a person ~~you~~ of your own choosing. I've tried my best to give them a good description of you.

By the way, dear, this letter is covering a lot of distance. I started this at

Moira and it is now near Sunday. That's

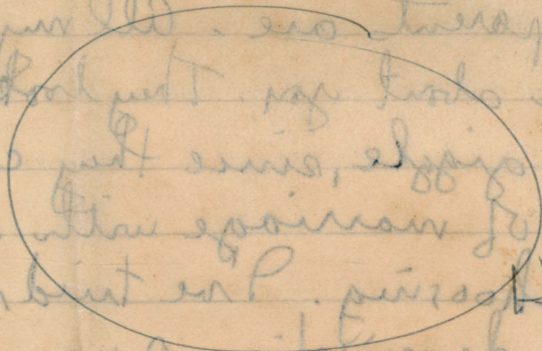
a lot of mileage for me letters. I shall

When you receive this letter, it will
be a month before I get back to San

Francisco. Time flies fast, ne? Be fore we
know it, I'll be back and meeting you
every day. That will be heaven!

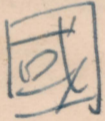
Give my best regards to your father and
traveller

Love





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