

Monday, March 31, 1958... Daichi Hotel, Tokyo, Japan. Letter numero uno.

Landed in Japan on a very nice day, sunny but slightly on the cool side, at 10:40 AM. Passed customs inspection without any difficulty, changed \$100 into yen at the airport, took a limousine directly to the Daiichi Hotel, (notice the corrected spelling of the name) and was given room number 428 which faces the Imperial Hotel side, which is east.

I was told that Tokyo had snow the day before I landed and that Japan was experiencing a very mild winter, exactly opposite of what we just went thru in the states. That's what I was told one year ago when I came to Japan. Hope that I will not be plagued by rainy weather here on in. (Last 3 words refers to famous last words of famous Chinese On In.)

Guess who sat next to me on the plane from San Francisco. None other than Iwao (I think that's his first name) Moriyama formerly of San Francisco of many years back. He said that he remembers Tami and that he recognized her at the airport. He is in the Dept. of Public Health in Washington but is in Berkeley for a semester teaching at the Univ. of California. He has traveled extensively for the government around the world and apparently enjoys a very high rating. He is visiting his folks who returned to Japan about 5 years ago and are now living in Tokyo. He will stay here for a week, during Easter vacation. Must be quite an important trip to come this distance for 1 week. Did not say, nor did I pry into his affairs. Probably his parents must be getting along in years and he has not seen them for 5 years. His wife and children are living in Berkeley at present, a former Berkeley girl, I think.

Just after checking in at the Daiichi Hotel I decided to take a brief trip to Daimaru and the Kokusai Kaikan to gander like a tourist at the various Ken exhibits but found to my dismay that they were closed...SUNDAY! But I did go to buy stretchies for my dirty feet. Bought 2 pairs of maroon and 2 pairs of navy blue.

But I am getting ahead of my story. When I reached the lobby after leaving my room I bumped into the young Kamei assistant who takes care of our shipments. He had checked with Japan Air Lines and discovered that I had arrived so he made a bee line for the hotel. Since I was just going out we were very lucky indeed to find each other. I was just as surprised as he was. Nice guy. I believe his name is Isobe or some name like that. Well we both went to Tokyo Station to the exhibits but found them closed. We quickly toured the department store and I returned home. We chatted for a short time concerning Kamei's shipments, mentioning the placement of the belt loop at the waist and the pockets at the proper length. (This typewriter makes so many errors!) I also directed him to weave the same amount of noil material of #1, #12, #15, and #N-1 since I felt that our supply would be quite inadequate shortly. I am planning to add some noil kimonos in both lady's and men's lengths. For women it would be the same as the pongee kimonos but for men I told him to lengthen the sleeve one ince and widen the sleeve on inch, and lengthen the robe to 56 inches. Please ADVISE IMMEDIATELY concerning the length of Men's noil kimonos and placement of pockets immediately, also belt loop position. I feel that we may sell a limited quantity this summer. I'm sure that Jack should be pleased. Tell him that I expect to sell them to only a select few stores because I do not intend to go too heavily on this item unless we are very successful. I plan first to start with the abovementioned patterns only because they proved popular over the years and production can begin almost immediately. Samples will be sent to you in approximately 2 weeks. Our noil silk for the DRS order will be ready in a few days and then I shall have samples made for noil kimonos for both sexes. For men I shall sell only patterns #12, #15, #N-1, eliminating the #1 because of the red color. I will send you the prices as soon as I get them. Please check prior letters from Kamei, for we may have them in the Kamei letters we received recently. If ladies' noil kimonos cost FOB \$2.50, I think we can land them for not more than \$3.50, to wholesale at \$6.50 each and \$72 dozen. Men's kimonos should be proportionately higher, possibly around \$90 dozen. We can only wait and see what prices we will be quoted.

My leg is not getting better as yet. Hope it doesn't get worse. Am now using only J and J Baby medicated powder to dry up the sore. It feels good after such a treatment. The cotton wash and dry shirt washed beautifully this morning. It seems to be drying quite rapidly and well. Daimaru sells a similar shirt for only 1000 yen, considerably cheaper than San Francisco.

Please don't forget my FORTUNES for the toothpicks. Also the SERIZAWA MATCH DESIGNS THAT SHOULD BE IN OUR LIVING ROOM. VERY IMPORTANT.

Already I feel homesick. Miss the kids. Miss the home. Miss the office. And miss Jean's coffee.

I did not declare any unaccompanied baggage so please do not send them. I can buy some instant coffee here and take to Moji. It would eventually be cheaper and more convenient.

Just had my trousers pressed and the tan shoes shined. I just made a 1:30 PM appointment with Ken Kato. Might as well swing into work from today. There is very little time here and I feel that he can do the shipping of minor purchaes in this area... which is much better than trying to find someone who may or may not turn out satisfactorily. I shall now begin to contact all my sources for appointments later in the week. Might as well get busy.

I just contacted Mr. Hirai of Kagawa ken who is now on his way to get me. He just arrived from the country this AM. Lucky me. Goodbye. *Hui*

Dimwit Traveler  
Delichi Hotel  
Room 428 Shimbashi  
Minato-ku TOKYO  
J A P A N

航空  
PAR AVION

FELIAS AND DOLLS  
TAKAHASHI TRADING CO.  
1661 Post Street  
San Francisco 15  
California  
U. S. A.

AEROGRAMME



この郵便物には何物も封入又は添附できません  
Nothing may be contained in or attached to this letter.

*Miss you all!*

This drip-dry cotton shirt is pretty good and if it proves good during my stay in Japan I think I shall invest in more. Savings from my laungrly bill will more than pay for itself.

I got a haircut and shampoo this morning and having received the works I feel like a million dollars. I called up Ferd Okada at Air India at 9 AM and was told by a young lady there that Ferd's brother had not come in as yet but that she thought that Ferd and Elsa were in Kobe just now.

Which reminds me that I called up Minoru Shinoda in Honolulu and he brought his wife and three children to the airport. I thought the kids would enjoy some ice cream sodas while the grown-ups had coffee, and they did. The oldest girl is 11 and the boy is about 7, and also is the youngest. In case you feel like sending the kids something from San Francisco, the Shinodas live at 1615 Eckart Road, Honolulu 14, Hawaii.

I FOUND MY SUMITOMO BANK NOTEBOOK. IT WAS IN MY BRIEF CASE ALL THE TIME. It goes to show how excited I must have been under my dull exterior.