

Saturday April 12, 1958

Dearest Henri,

I don't know how long this mail has been here, but by the postmark, the envelop says SHIBUYA JAPAN March 22nd, and only 15 yen stamps, open mail, catalog rate, addressed to you, so they must have the name from some list. AIR TOURS/ASSOCIATES LTD. Italian Gardens Bldg. 1 Kasumi cho, Azabu, Minato Ku, Tokyo. 408-1795 etc contents all Engl. including sample itineraries of package trips to Hong Kong, Bangkok, Angkor Wat, India and says Air Tours Assoc. usually called ATA spec. in packg trips, not conducted tours to Southeast Asia and India. Claims it is American owned and operated...a Tom Moore who has been in the orient esp. China for over ten years, for the China Relief Mission for the govt. They also enclosed a booklet-like magazine called HOLIDAYS (news about travel in the orient) containing ads of hotels,shops, etc in HongKong, tour snapshots, etc imply emphasis had been placed on DAC civilians on vacations. Inside back cover is 'Welcome to Nankai Travel Service co. Inc, 1-2chome Kyobashi, Tokyo 56-1431-2 IATA approv agent.

Looks like everyone is starting one. Easiest way, if WE ARE INTERESTED, IF, that is, we could have a branch office of the IATA agency that will have us. But we can be thinking of this, and do it when we are ready. Letter signed by ALBERT SMITH

I've been home eve y night except last night when I went to the shuu-ji lesson with Aki, so I've been reading stuff, and they all say the best hedge against the inflation that is on us and due to increase in snow-ball proportions is 1, stocks and 2, own your own business, and way down the list is real estate, bec it is so hard to unload and realize profit, and taxes, possible loss by fire, etc.

This ATA group is a very small one, it seems, with emphasis on southeast asia. If this one or another office wants a S F office, we could conceivably tie up but we don't know who these particular ones are. Doesn't strike me as being very good, bec staff doesn't look (by photo) good, awfully young, inexperienced.

So much for this thing....what did the folks at Hankyu say? About Miss Ito, she hasn't answered my order for the stationery, so I guess she isn't in business anymore. Something like (her last letter alst year) her establishment needed new heating equipment (expensive) and since she got a good offer, was deciding to sell out instead of putting more money into it. But she ought to wite to say she can't fill my order so that I would order from elsewhere. Kyoto Bito sent samples of envelopes and paper(matching) of which bamboo was best, grey flowers next best. Envel Y16 for ten; paper, Y20 for tablet. No lines. If I can sell set of one each for 50-60% retail, it'll be fine. Do these prices mean ex-factory or fob???? If these are local costs, you can mail us parcel post? or with personal shopping?

We're sending you stickers perforated with addresses for postals, but it is preferred that it is all handwritten instead. Dorothy prepared the list but it is so bad (includes some we've sued, etc) & some read 'Marshall Fields' and no dept # or buyer's name, she's always been poor at this, that it has to be gone over. Martha's correcting this list. Have misplaced Northwest Airlines ink sketches, and unable to send to Serizawa, but will make another search and do it for sure. Otherwise will try to get facsimiles and send, as I remembe the bird, the plane, and symbol.

PLEASE DON'T BUY MRS KUWAMURA'S BAMBOO HOT PAD. THE SAMPLE CAME, IT IS CHEAP, SHODDY, NON*REVERSIBLE(ONE SIDE ONLY), PEKO*PEKO, to pliant and flexible and cheap looking, out rim bead too small, wire too thin, no sense of artistry or good sense for end-use, not practival bec uneven surface, pot will rock on it, too thin/ for effective hot pad use, nothing good about it !! Don't buy. Can't sell for 15% retail. Woulnd't have it. Cancel order. It didn't work out. They just don't know. Beads so small, so high price, smaller the higher, more trouble to make, and less effective in our hot pad. Tell'em it's for NABE-SHIKI, hot, hot pot....so not to make it so thin ! hrist's sake, are they stupid? Did you see the same thing they sent us and in your sane mind buy it, or were you beholden for the entertainment? It's so frail, cheezy, it's like a Xmas ornament ! Only senseless.It's not worth 15% retail. Every \$10 worthh has got to be salable, not spent bec you are pressed into it by obligation, "enri. Spend it on a cake for her and give it to her instead of letting her stick you. She doesn't know, then let her sell you what she is more acquainted with, not what's strange, she can't help be ignorant. It's too hard, redulous. DON'T BUY THE WOODEN BEADS !3x3 ft. Jeepers, please. We can't eat them if we get stuck. That length is all crazy.

FOLD SIDES OVER AND THEN FOLD BOTTOM UP
MOISTEN FLAP WELL AND APPLY PRESSURE TO SEAL
NO OTHER ENVELOPE SHOULD BE USED

2/ House: Silverberg Co quotes about \$3,600 for \$3,000 two coat paint job after burning off and stucco filling and 600 for carpentering (knocking off water table replacing dead timber and rotted members, retrussing joists under front steps, knocking off entire 36th ave side wall of drum room in basement also ceiling, & if too bad, they'll just put some lumber against the existing ones, not replace them, but brace the existing ones, and close it up again. The way they are doing it, it isn't to live in for another 50 yrs, but good enough for ten years, they say, and strong enough to keep it from sagging, more than it already has. Only necessary repairs and restoration. No remodeling. Water table will be a slant top to prevent water from collecting. Flower bed removed from all windows. Stuck casement windows facing 36th removed, planed off, made to fit and close tight, & open & close. Those facing Geary, sealed water tight. Facing ShoreView to open. No replacements necessary. Painting by Zelinsky (the best). Phoned Handa twice, not home, & no response. If he isn't going to do it, we'll have to go ahead and let the hakujin do it as they have a big crew and can do it within ten days after I accept. 10 days to write specs and negotiate, 4 days to ready materials & crew & finish in prompt order which means within 30 days. Handa takes longer. Masaji will do a lot of the inside, seems willing. I need only to give him pictures from

FIRST FOLD

NO TAPE OR STICKER MAY BE ATTACHED
IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED, THIS LETTER
WILL BE SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL

Handwritten: Takahashi #7
SF 21 Calif
AEROGRAMME
AIR LETTER
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF. APR 14 4-PM 1958
MA AIR MAIL
PAR AVION
Hotel Daiichi
Shinjuku
Tokyo
JAPAN



NO OTHER ENVELOPE SHOULD BE USED
FOR LETTERS WITH AIR MAIL PERMITS TO BE SENT
BY AIR MAIL

SECOND FOLD

3/ magazines. What would do we want for the family room magazine shelves, newspaper shelves, and cabinets. Masaji says it's oshii to make it out of pine or something. But depends on whether we will stain it or paint it over. Since I haven't enough knowledge of floor coverings I'm still studying, also about lighting. Fiduciary is finished. My papers Dorothy says will be ready for signing. So I'll finish the house by July. 10th anniversary of retail store this year, so employees should have Co. picnic where some can fish, others play, like at a beach, or at our house if it's done. Don't buy any more tables from Kawanami, now. He says he's exhibiting in Seattle, & wants us to go if we can, otherwise entertain his rep. coming to SF for 5 days, buy his samples, etc. We'll write the Int'l Trade Fair in Seattle to his rep. & tell him to get rid of samples during show. Letter enclosed photos of samples to be shown they look awful. Thick, dumpy, almost-&-not-quite-looking. When he shows, we'll show him SF. Next Sat. I'm giving dinner for Warren & wife, chinatown, P & Norm too; Martha & W; Eiichi-Hime (classmate of Warren's, Chicago). Then take P&N home, adults invited to Belevedere. Heard the Gotts sold out shop in SF, bec Palo Alto turned out so good. Their maid is available for dinner cooking & hswork after they leave city. Lawn grew & looks terrible. Think I'll have ivy planted. Snails & slugs had a holiday so I bot bait. Dandelions are a foot high. How's the thigh See a Dr? Love,