

page one

Wed. Tuesday Nov. 1st, 1955
Tokyo

Dear Henri,

Saw Sakurai the wood worker today for three hours. Ten to one oc'clock. Had oyako-domburi with him, parted at the station from where K-zhan and I went to a dyer away outside outskirts of Tokyo to discuss the idea of doing aprons.

First: re Sakurai.

Height is about five feet tall, built very small. Quiet, honest, sincere, will do anything you tell him to do in a capable way. But he not knowing what is expected of him, like anyone else in a strange place, may feel lost at first.

He says he would like to spend his evenings at study of American ways of living, to learn about interiors, design, and usage of dishes, etc so that he may design furniture and shoji and all things in rooms the better for the learning.

Like going window shopping on Sunday, to see the set-ups in the department store windows.

He can make the steak knife boxes as few or as many right in the workshop. He can do teakwood furniture of the J. chabodai type, which is the low coffee table so-called, which the J. have in the ozashiki, adapted to the living room. Didn't make any commitments. Asked him straight out re: salary. He said not any particular amt. # Re: Aprons. Maker says he'll duplicate Osaka apron at same price. Material and dye all from same source, only one place in J. Will do in three patterns: flowers (garden/apron); vegetables (kitchen, barbecue); sea food & mushrooms (barbecue, kitchen, amateur cooks); in 6 colors.... orange, red, mustard yellow, brown, navy, olive green....rust/blk-white tie string top, all with wide-width across top pocket, sectioned off for garden shears, holding barbecue prongs, beer bottle opener, or pot holder, or what have you, across the top just under tie-string. How about that? In color, design, styling, we'll beat the pants off Otagiri and H-W both, and we can do it with price....\$10.80 to \$12.00/doz if we ship out at same price for navy, and 10% higher for other 5 colors.... can we swing the new \$10.80 price at 10% higher FOB for colors? Maker is intelligent, cooperative, interested, and pleased. We told him, design on one side only is OK, doesn't need to be reversible. (Y10 less) OK? # Replied to my inquiry that he was getting room, board, plus Y9,000 and special guidance and lessons in bas relief work, zo-gan (inlay), and designing doors, screens, gateway, etc. Without room and board he would be getting Y15,000 he says, and he would be doing regular work, but now does work at night on his own in his eagerness to learn and lives in with a man by the name of Hashimoto claimed to be the greatest contemporary designer and maker of doors and shoji and famma designer. Work appears in the best magazines. But this young fellow will do anything, routine work, as well as special work. He suggests that teak tables be set up in Shiba, Tokyo, and then shipped knocked down except for the top, and he'll assemble the legs onto them. He can do anything of wood, gladly, and he'll be cheaper than a Cadillac. Any day. Or you can have both, Henri. He'll pay for himself.

Good

Good

Nov. 2, 1955

More to add to the page done yesterday.

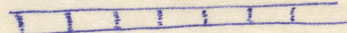
The following is sketch of alternate ways we can do the new colored aprons.....please advise which you want immediately.

Price awaiting dyer's delivery of sample.

Dyer has vat of dark brown due to be mixed next week.

Has navy on hand at all times.

All other colors must be mixed and special container prepared in which to mix said color, cook, boil, & dye in.

Will weave material already fringed between each apron length: 

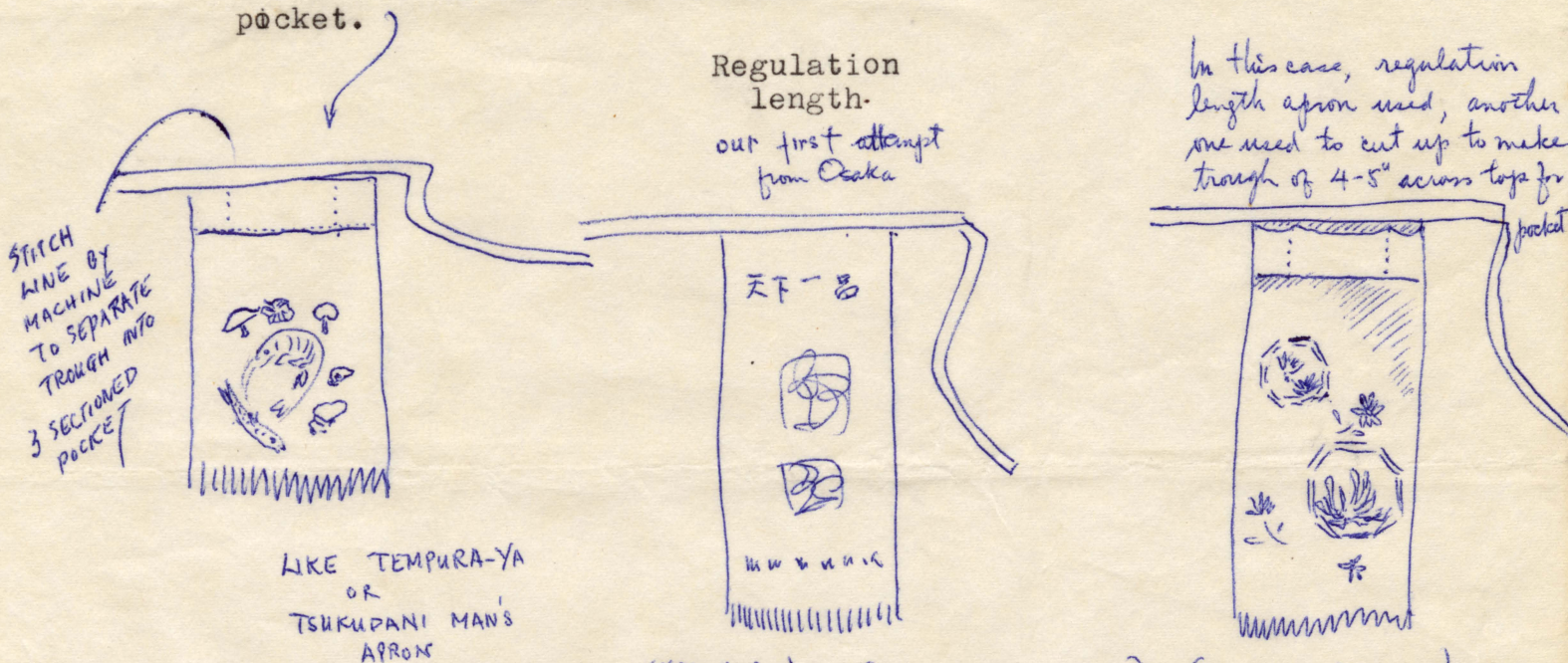
all-over of all same length.

Lower price:

because pocket portion cut off of regulation length about 4 inches to form shallow pocket.

Higher price:

because need extra material to make pocket



6 COLORS: (NAVY) - (BROWN) - (YELLOW-ORANGE) - (MUSTARD YELLOW) - (GREEN (OLIVE)) - (CORAL RED)
OR ANY OTHER COLOR YOU WISH IF YOU PAY THE PRICE

Leaving now to mail this, and to attend exhibit of Kanto 10-ken (but K-chan says Zen-koku????) Tokusan-butsumi at Mitsukoshi. (Special products exhibit) More again. Awaiting Melva's sample by air; not yet come. Also no mail.

Working hard,
tt

Chieko Miyagi probably getting passage in about 2-3 weeks aboard 1st freighter or steamship that will take her on. (Freighters don't like to take women - can't mix sleeping accommodations, bath, etc with men)

PLEASE READ THIS MESSAGE TO SQUIRE KNOWLES ON PHONE: Dear Squire, I rec'd your two nice letters both referring to abstract designs on paper and dolls in a box. If you mean hard-stencils & dyed papers like those used on our commisters, I bought several from which you are welcome to take your choice. Re: dolls, what material are they to be made of? All dolls in Japan come in boxes, & if small, would come in a box 4x4x5 inches. Do you mean wooden dolls with round, wobbly heads called KOKESHU or the type we have on our pencils? Please describe the dolls instead of the box. I'll be here til 10-15th. Tammi.

N E W S.....

Nov. 2, 1955

Just found out maker of the Takumi cannisters....we can do business direct and perhaps save the difference????

I went to Shizuoka Ken Boeki Assenjo who wrote the Shizuoka Ken Boeki As senjo proper from Tokyo branch, and they phoned me just now from Shizuoka to tell us the source, and said regards, and maido agigato gozaimasu, etc.

Shizuoka also makes at same source???(bec of ^{pasting} ~~pasting~~ skill) the salt and pepper shakers...how about writing them from SF?

静岡縣 静岡市 峯谷町 曲頂六十九
有限公司 静岡製罐所