

January 4, 1956

Dear Tommie,

We received the two packages yesterday. Thank you very much. We both think the calendar is very nice. Where did you get it? Are you selling them? We appreciate it very much. I also liked the gloves - just what I needed. Thanks for the galoshes - I hope I'm not depriving you of dry feet. The two packages came in good condition. There were lots of place mats and gift paper. Thanks for everything.

Mr. Tsukida wrote that the storm was very bad and Kayoko wasn't able to get home for Christmas from Washington. It was too bad for her as well as the folks since they looked forward to it.

How was your company party? With some of them married, you must have had quite a crowd at the house.

We liked the color selection of your gift papers very much. They are much better than last year's. We were most impressed with the calendar. Will is very pleased with it.

Will just called from the office and said they are getting off from work at 3:00 today due to the fog. When it gets foggy here, it is very bad and dangerous so they let them off before dark. It gets dark at 4:00 or a little before. The days are very short here in the winter since we are quite far north.

We are planning to take a car trip of the Continent in May or June. We are going to drive since that way we can get to out-of-the-way places and also bring back more things. I hope I will be able to pick up some ideas for your store and get samples to show you.

England is known for good silk scarves - Liberty scarves, which sell at good stores in the states for 3.50 - 7.50. The designs most typical are paisley, but they also do others. France makes better ones, more modern and colorful but also expensive. Good quality + design from Japan should also sell well. The cheap thin ones are already common but really, good ones might be a good seller to good stores. Men are wearing neck scarves + cravats more now, especially the sporty type who go to resorts. People always have a hard time finding good gifts for men so if you can think of unusual things for men, I'm sure it will be good.

For the house, nice simple candle holders and practical size vases are always good gift items. I'm still looking for a vase for myself about 8-10 inches high and not too wide at the top for a dozen carnations or roses. A nice looking cast iron one or a ^{dark} woven bamboo with metal lining ^(mama had one) would be nice because they would be unbreakable. The iron one would be heavy enough not to tip over. Crystal ones are very nice but very expensive and breakable & also distracting to see the stems in the water since it is transparent. I thought the ~~dark~~ woven vase would be very nice for putting spring flowers and blossoms in. At least I certainly would love these for myself & would look for them to buy when I go to Japan.

January 6, 1956

I don't know whether you will have read about the terrible smog in London in the papers by now but for the past two days it's been very bad. Yesterday, was about the worst and Will went to work late and came home at 2:00. It was like night time only worse because of the dense fog + smoke. It actually came into the house and of course we couldn't see out of the windows at all. They say it was about the worst in history. Today it isn't quite as bad but I couldn't drive out to the base for groceries this week. It's a good thing that I keep a miniature grocery store in the house for such emergencies. I don't know how it is in Los Angeles, but it can't be any worse than this.

Thank you again for the packages. Will write again.

Love to all,

Marilyn

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