

HOKUSAI'S PRINTS

A research project sponsored by the United States National Endowment for the Humanities and the Center for the Study of Japanese Woodblock Prints (Roger S. Keyes, Director)

April 10, 1986

Ms. Tomoye Takahashi
200 Rhode Island
San Francisco, CA 94103

Peter Morse
P. O. Box 22759
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822
Phone: (808) 941-6334
or (808) 671-1539

Dear Ms. Takahashi,

Dr. Roger Keyes and I are compiling a catalogue of all the single-sheet prints by Katsushika Hokusai (1760-1849). For this purpose, we have received a three-year grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, a department of the United States Government, and additional support from the Japan Foundation and other foundations. To help us in this work, may we please ask you for a list of Hokusai's prints in your collection. We are sending this request to an international group of museums, libraries, collectors, and scholars.

We recognize that this request calls for some work on your part. We have already visited many collections in North America, Japan, and Europe. Replies to this letter will help us in planning our future travels, and in cataloguing collections that it is impossible to visit in person. Hokusai changed his name often, so we are looking for all prints signed: Iitsu, Manji, Shunro, Sori, and Taito (in addition to "Hokusai"), and for unsigned prints in Hokusai's style. We are interested in all Hokusai prints in your collection, including late or damaged examples -- prints that may be filed as "Study Material."

The catalogue raisonné is the most fundamental working tool of art historical research. It is the record, in word and picture, of every surviving original work created by an artist. It contains illustrations and every known fact about those works of art. The prints of nearly all great European and American artists have been catalogued in this manner. Hokusai is one of the most important artists whose work has not yet been catalogued. One reason is that many of Hokusai's prints survive in only one or two impressions. They have been scattered among institutions and private collections all over the world. Some of your prints may be unique or may be examples of unique states or printing variants. It is only through your cooperation that we will be able to complete this pictorial record of Hokusai's work.

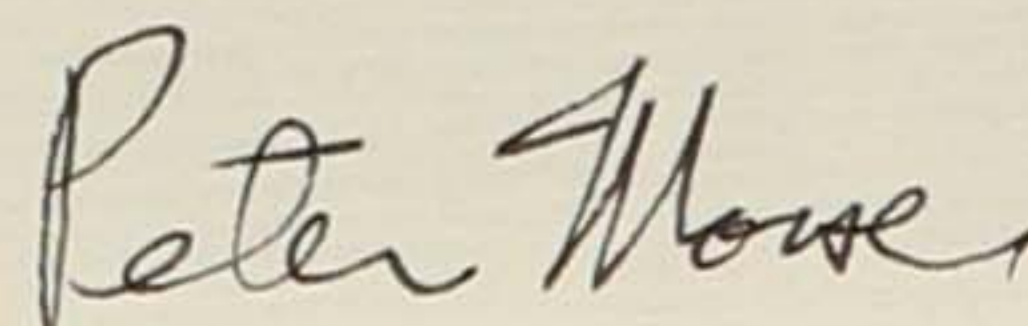
We would also be grateful for information on any other works by, after, or attributed to Hokusai in your collection, including:

1. paintings
2. drawings
3. illustrated books, particularly albums
4. outright copies of woodblock prints

Your reply will help us to complete our catalogue. Even if you have no prints by Hokusai, we would like to know about the Japanese prints you do have, and of any other collectors or institutions with prints that you may know.

All help will be acknowledged in print (or will be kept confidential, if you prefer). Please write to me at the address above.

Sincerely yours,



Peter Morse
P. O. Box 22759
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822



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