

THOMAS S. HANDFORTH

491 West Ave 43

Los Angeles 31

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Dear Marnie

Some devilish perverse gremlin has had me hog tied from writing to you, while I watch with embarrassment your stack of letters piling up. I've become a day laborer and with it a petrification of the writing hand. I take the pen and the gremlin says theres a pile of rocks to be moved a tree to be trimmed a bulkhead to be built, or some furniture in that add to be looked at, and then after evening soup he stupifies me into slumber. Recently at the slave market (3rd and La Brea) I reached in the greale bag and pulled out a sinewy black with the beautiful name of Ivory. First thing we did was to pull down the slave quarters, honey suckle and all and used all four walls of the building intact as a screen against my neighbor, leveled the land before it, gathered flagstone from all over Gogi Goganasdas hillside domain and constructed a lovely patio. Ivory is a man of many trades, chef, cement man house painter service station assistant, beauty parlor decorator and so I can catch him on the fly between jobs.

Yesterday at an auction on West Adams, I won the most wonderful table - the supreme example of wooding in inlay, which some of those Modern Museum enthusiasts would give their eye teeth to possess.....

Now with your stack of letters before me it might be difficult for me to how to commence a reply regarding the shipment, but that all your suggestions procedure and figures and decisions seem quite O.K. by me.

As you say, the Interstate people seem to be the best and as their packing is better and no transferring, their peculiar sort of insurance, which is negligible, whether 30¢, 50¢ or \$1.50 per article, doesnt matter so much. So I guess the insurance might as well be the minimum 30¢. The shipping charges are not as high as I had feared they might be. As for insurance from an outside ins. co. maybe we can take the risk and skip it.

I got a nice cedar chest with brass trim for \$7.50

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is coolish for the first time and I haven't yet decided on my heating installation. Bought a good gas heater at a great bargain. But it requires a flue. Now I don't want to cut thru walls & floors until I'm absolutely certain its right so may try out little heaters first.

Are you going to send my bronze head? I never did think much of it but might do in the garden with an ivy wreath growing about it. Don't forget the things in the trunk in the basement.

I was surprised to get that fine pattern from you at this time when you are so busy with other activities. I don't think it is quite right yet but Daisy Brown said she would make the necessary alterations before I send it back. In spite of my complaints about the copper job I wear it a great deal especially in the house. It is so comfortable and I like the color a lot - I have it on right now and would hate to give it up.

Enclosed are the China stamps you ask for - They are from a letter informing me that I have CN #109,204.00! the result of leaving \$5.00 U.S. in a bank in Peking for eleven years.

Do you remember Oscar Simpkins? He is landing on me day after tomorrow - some of his baggage has already arrived. I am counting on his putting the garden at least in order.

Enclosed are some photos which do not do justice to the Red Pavilion - as I surmised - it is not too photogenic at present, but better ones will come

Now that I've delayed so long I want everything in a hurry.

Love
Thomas

Marqery Evernden has written another book for me to illustrate - this time about Chinese juvenile strolling players. I'll need my material on that subject.