

THOMAS S. HANDFORTH

Saturday Sept 4

[1948]

Dear Nannie -

Thanks for your good letter including measurements of boxes. and am glad you like the idea of my place <sup>even</sup> as very inadequately described. Everyone who has seen the "Red Pavilion" or "Ravennote" or "Gogi Yonder" or whatever its name will be, goes extatic about it in spite of the mess that its in - inside and out.

I did somewhat exaggerate when I said that I wanted everything that is mine. The point was that I do at least want to enjoy the things I possess or what's the use of keeping them? The rugs for instance - I don't want so many that I'll have to store them - You have more adequate facilities for that. But the floors here are fine and in bad condition even if I do sand & refinish them and they can stand being pretty well covered. In a couple of places it would be desirable to have them over laps: in the "doorway" from studio to kitchen library "hallway" where there is the hardest wear. A small rug here thru entrance cannot be more than 28" wide. Maybe that little natural color one Tunisian pattern like a tortoise back which you used in your bed room would do. The hall itself is 33" wide. ~~When~~ In my working corner by the studio window one of the older rugs over a better one wouldn't be a bad idea to avoid worry about spilling a bottle of ink or so.

As I said before the rug Minna Parks gave me (size 8' x 11') is in two shades of faded greenish yellow and if it doesn't drop to pieces when clean will in spite of its many moth holes be fine for the studio room in which the predominating color of rugs should be yellow - yellow with green or a little red or a little blue but definitely not too much blue. You need there be much blue in the library. The strong <sup>with</sup> blue, red or green - no yellow, could do in the bed room. Here it would be desirable to fill a spare 7' x 7' approximately with one rug - less than 7' one dimension more than 7'

other demension could do. The larger of the Tunisian rugs with mauve and yellow etc (which I believe you have never used - maybe in Woodbury or on "Signet House" Road) could be the one for the library. Another Tunisian rug with more yellow green and mauve is much too faded to do with, for any place. I have completely forgotten what's become of a Marberry shade Tunisian rug with single large diamond pattern. That I would like if you come across it. Don't want the Chinese rug in sewing room. Don't need the Chinese rug in upstairs hall if you want it or unless you think its green would go especially well with yellows. and I don't need the down stairs hall rug which you want if you mean the one with blue in it. I do like it much but something else might do better in this house, for instance the down stairs hall rug with red, beige, a little black etc - no blue star medallion design. I believe I gave that one to you at least you paid \$900 duty on it so will have to think twice about it. before deciding. I am thinking out loud in hopes that you can make the selection for me and we will both be satisfied. The Bokara should be fine for the "press room" when used as a quest room - if it is not much too large (Please compare demensions with my plan.) The floor is concrete (May paint it with Flo-Tile) but in any case could stand being well covered. I believe there are none of the original rugs from home that I would want except the Bokara. I might very well use a couch rug or blanket Moroccan Red stripes with a little white (and black?) If there are pieces like that hall rug which you find are perfect and irreplaceable for you. you had better keep - I am sure it is easier to find a choice here than in Wilmington. Please do list other articles from home. I don't remember what they are. and as for furniture I can't see that any of it would be suitable for this house. On the other hand what isn't sent in this one shipment we will probably never get around to again. That green jar - I know you want it - me too - so it would be a double catastrophe if it were broken in shipment. So many of James Lee's precious porcelains were broken in shipment from China even with that superlative Chinese packing. so do consult with shippers



about sending breadables. By the way there are some small pieces in the trunk under window. The white jar I had better leave in any case - Remember it's 12 centuries old!

Sunday Sept 12 - Thanks so much for having sent the dimensions of the Chinese boxes. The carpenters were to have come last Tuesday but didn't show up for which I was thankful - firstly because it suddenly turned very hot, and the big heat of the year is still on and no one can do their best work in it. I've been trying to clear up the litter of lumber, dry grass and brush but climbing up and down the hill in the heat is more than I can stand for long. I've been cutting away the honey suckle from the slave quarters - a thick mattress of dead vines too pretty green on the surface. - a terrifying fire hazard. Day before yesterday across the main road a grass fire got out of control and burnt all the way to the top of the hill, with fire engines smothering all over the place, and yesterday they tore up my lower road but no fire to be found. In the excitement a young fellow in a big car rolled off the road down some steps into a front yard just below me. The car is still there upside down.

Another reason for being relieved at the non-arrival of the carpenters was that for ten days I have been guiding our hyper-energetic, over 60, female about town - the collector & now head of Tacoma Art Association Mrs. Schneider. We covered every dealer, museum, to say nothing of numerous private studios - and a show every night. Thank heavens she left on Wed by plane to go back to work.

So with all this there has been little progress in improvements, and have moments of discouragement because of the length of time that it will take. Therefore I am in no terrific hurry about the delivery of my possessions. Probably what I shall really need

Just are the blankets as I have only two thin ones, borrowed and I do expect overnight visitors will be dropping in before long. I can use the three blankets you mention - also the red one and blue one I had in Avila.

The family pictures and snapshots whatever they are you might send - also my boxes of books. Definitely these, on the third floor. Stevenson and Wilde <sup>12 1/2</sup> I can do without. if the extra cost is more than ~~10~~ per book. The Lama scroll is the one with the single figure - a Buddha of ~~some~~ sort which you hung for a while in the living room over the red lacquer chest. I do not place "Mother's oriental type hangings". Do you mean the rose and gold Venetia brocade? This I could use. We bought it together in the thieves market in Rome. There were some plush portieres with giant dandelion pattern too - these do not want. The best colored "museum piece" rug I might as well have if you and Stan don't want it. Can use the African robes. Send the valet suit case if you can pack anything in it. Don't want the square hat box - unless it too is useful for packing. A paisley shawl is always useful for covering up a bad spot - send it! and I could well use Stan's plum colored Chinese Robe - at present I have no robe of any sort. Don't send too many rugs but not the two faded ones either. Remember I have a museum piece on the floor now and I find myself walking all around but not on it - my dusty foot prints are too conspicuous on its pale yellow. Of course theoretically and officially I do not relinquish claim to any of the furnishings that came from Tacoma. But that may all be settled twenty years from now. You will recall my true story of the handsome young Moroccan soldier who went off to the wars for four years leaving his beautiful young wife. On returning he found she had been

Send all Chinese scrolls



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kept the while by an old man. He not only demanded her back but also payment from the old man for the time he had had her. The elder on the other hand demanded that the soldier pay him for having supported her during the four years. Before a French judge, the girl in coarse Mahometan convention refused to state her preference, so the case was thrown out of court. Some days later, the judge astonished to see the two opponents walking in the street in a most friendly fashion, could not resist asking them what was their happy solution: They had sold the girl to a house and each bought two new pairs of shoes with the money.

But as for this shipment I have not the remotest idea of what it will cost. Do you think it would be possible to send Belins estimate for my O.K? Then we could decide about the Tranquilina and Faraway Meadow plates for instance, etc etc.

I have gotten around to taking some photos of the estate and will send some when ready.

You will probably think of more items to ask me about before the job is off. How do you feel about getting rid of all these things? How about coming along with them?

Love  
Tom