

14 Kan Yu Hutung
Peking

Sept 22 [1932]

Dear Stan -

Every once in a while I start to wonder why I haven't had a word of news of any sort from Woodbury since about the end of last May. Fortunately I don't worry. I have disciplined myself not to do that. I even try to avoid thinking about the matter trying to believe that all goes along more or less as usual and that merely letters have gone astray. However all mail seems to come from except that from relatives. Last ~~the~~ April I sent a package of clothing (Chinese baby's) to Merle & Brian at the same time that I mailed a package to Mother. I have had no reports concerning either. Even if my gifts are not appreciated people should at least be polite and thank me for them. We have there been any letters from relatives in Mexico, but that surprises me less, although I wrote the last one.

I wish you could give me a faint inkling of what is happening in America and especially in Woodbury. It all seems to be drifting farther and farther from me, I feel more and more cut off from the other side of the Pacific while China becomes more and more the center of my existence. America will soon be nothing but a vague memory! Please try to keep that from happening.

Since my last letter to Mother several weeks - almost a month ago nothing especially startling has happened - for me the usual ease, pleasant company, always a little less work than I plan to produce, fair health, although my waist is a little too wasplike these days, an occasional "tea" and "exhibition" in one of the numerous "salons" of my large house, which have become social "functions" of the community and sometimes produce a sale of withdrawing or so, friends up from Shanghai, to enjoy the most perfect month of the year in Peking which the season has turned out to be the rainiest in the memory of man. One Austro-Hungarian artist staying with me for a fortnight - a few hikes in the mountains with picnic lunches in the garden of some ancient Temple, not much swimming - temperature a bit coolish - no real trouble yet from the Japanese tho their marines still continue their startling and unexpected manoeuvres at odd points in the city; no disturbances on the anniversary of the invasion of Manchuria, other than an attempted attack on the city by the students of Yenching University several miles outside the walls, all the city gates closed for half a day and guarded by Jap marines with fixed bayonets. Peking now remains the only oasis in China where there is some respect for law and order and one can live in comfort; elsewhere continual pillage and destruction, with practically all historical monuments mutilated, looted, or completely destroyed.

Friends have returned from the States - one brings
me supplies of etching ink another paper - so now
with my press installed and much material collected
I have no excuse for not producing enough to
completely ruin the market. One friend has visited
the Whitmores at Hingham Center; she gathers that
the struggle has been hard and will continue so.
What about the outlook in Woodbury? Of course
the Duponts can always look hopefully forward
for a first class war - but that sort of thing
doesn't get a very big hand these days; even in
Japan the people are not jubilant over their supposed
victories.

What have you and Nannie been doing all
Summer? and how are the Howells etc? How is
the new car and where has it been? What about
the Lawsons of Foxboro? What about Walter and
James? For Pete's sake give a guy a break and
let out a chirp once in a while.

I sent off my life insurance premium a
few weeks ago so please do not duplicate that.
Enclosed are some snaps of my main courtyard taken
in the rain, one is a double exposure, but the more
interesting for that. The yard was almost a swimming
pool, as you can see.

Please ask Mother to write

Yours

PS. Some time ago I asked Nannie to send on my album of portraits
and a collection of my etchings. Has anything been done about it? I ^{still}
wrote her
I still
wrote them
Please see! T.H.