

on board M.V. Japanese Prince

March 12, 1931

Dear Max,

This is certainly the biggest ocean I've ever seen - What I mean is, you never seem to get to the other side! especially when your engines - Mary and Jane are so poor at team work, they keep breaking down alternately and sometimes together. The weather tho has been considerate - no real storms at all, and all the while astonishingly warm; even now, two days from Japan. We took a comparatively Southern course, since there is bad weather to the North. We passed six hundred miles from Honolulu so I wired Ave Cheerio Dale to Mrs M. F. Adon as I could see her on the beach.

At Los Angeles I received a couple of letters from you, clippings enclosed, as well as much other mail. There was time to run over to Pasadena to the Community Playhouse to have lunch with Morrie Ankrum, and you may be sure we were both very glad to see each other. He claims to be dissatisfied with his existence, tho it would be hard to find a more agreeable setting for little theatre work.

Jim Cousins was in Ojai for the day, lecturing. If our ship had been in port on the 26th instead of the 25th of Feb. I would have seen him in L.A. He sent me numerous letters of introduction: to the Dewan of Mysore, several Hindu artists etc.

Two other passengers boarded the ship in L.A. - a Mr & Mrs. Mowse on their honeymoon trip around the world. He is in the American Consular service in Shanghai, and she is of Danish-English descent, the third generation born in China.

I phoned Frances O'Neale first thing after landing. her voice sounded very chipper and she said she had just been talking of you to Hays. She'd not offer to come after me in that car, and I would not have had time to go to Davis by bus & to Pasadena as well, so I did not see her.

or
give my
love to
Amos
(I
love
and
to
see
land.
There
has
been
plenty
of
time
to
reconsider
my
plans.
I
have
almost
fixed
on
staying
a
month
in
Japan,
and
even
longer
in
Shanghai.
It
looks
as
if
Shanghai
will
be
a
good
place
for
me
to
collect
material,
better
than
Singapore
^{Hongkong} in
that
it
is
cheaper,
more
temperate
climate
and
a
more
varied
atmosphere
because
of
its
international
character
etc.
Then
on
to
Bali,
and
India
depending
upon
the
endurance
of
funds.
They
say
that
one
cannot
resist
the
temptation
to
buy
pearls
diamonds
and
rubies
in
India.
It
will
be
safe
to
send
your
reply
to
this
c/o
The
American
Express
Shanghai
China,
and
by
then
my
program
will
be
more
definite.
In
any
case,
mail
sent
to
Am. Exp. Hongkong
will
be
forwarded.
Many
thanks
for
the
clippings.
The
picture
of
Mina
as
a
bride
was
nothing
to
rave
about.
Mavis
refused
to
call
on
her
when
they
went
through
L.A.
because
she
failed
to
keep
her
promise
to
not
change
her
name!
March 15
were
in
right
of
land!
Hurrah!
More
anon!
Love
Gene.

and a bridge friend when she isn't sea sick which she is, most of the while.

Fortunately the Captain is a good scout, as well as the other officers, and even we passengers are still on speaking terms with each other in spite of our enforced proximity. The days somehow pass like nothing at all between breakfast and tiffin, a little shuffle board on deck, between tiffin and tea, a little deck tennis, or just talk, cocktails between tea and dinner, then much unsuccessful fooling and tinkering with the radio, trying to catch Amos and Andy, then beer and sandwiches and so to bed. One settles down into a pleasant coma, and loses the will power for any exertion. — It will be good to see land.

There has been plenty of time to reconsider my plans. I have almost fixed on staying a month in Japan, and even longer in Shanghai. It looks as if Shanghai will be a good place for me to collect material, better than Singapore ^{Hongkong} in that it is cheaper, more temperate climate and a more varied atmosphere because of its international character etc. Then on to Bali, and India depending upon the endurance of funds. They say that one cannot resist the temptation to buy pearls diamonds and rubies in India.

It will be safe to send your reply to this c/o The American Express Shanghai China, and by then my program will be more definite. In any case, mail sent to Am. Exp. Hongkong will be forwarded.

Many thanks for the clippings. The picture of Mina as a bride was nothing to rave about. Mavis refused to call on her when they went through L.A. because she failed to keep her promise to not change her name!
March 15
were in right of land!
Hurrah!
More anon!
Love Gene.