

Vila Catarina
Travessa de Colegio
Macau

Jan. 4, 1934

Dear Stan -

From the above address one might think that this was being written from somewhere in Latin Europe. Indeed superficially ^{Macau} it looks more like a Mediterranean town than any other part of the world but with its undercurrent of Chinese, and its very mixed blood of many generations which has produced the Macanese race, the town has a very strange and special quality of its own. It is a tiny peninsula, almost an island (I can't tell you off hand its dimensions etc) almost completely built over with Portuguese 17th century buildings. It is supposed to be the Monte Carlo of the East, but as far as I have observed it is a very depressed version of such, as I have not seen a single tourist during my five days here. There is a race course, canadrome, many gambling casinos, dance halls, sing song houses but very very little clientele. There is no legitimate commerce except fishing (and fruit sales) it is all smuggling, dope peddling, and the retreat of wealthy retired pirates and a strong hold of Catholicism.

I have leased for two months one of the prettiest and most charmingly situated villas in the town. with the idea of "doing" Macao in pencil and

photography. A friend, now in Shanghai, will be down in ten days to share the villa with me. The house was completely unfurnished and as I had to rent and buy everything for it, I have more or less bound myself to the place until my return to Peking about March 1st. We are only three hours from Hongkong with boat service twice daily and a yet shorter distance (30 miles) from Canton. I spent only one night in Hongkong, but two very busy weeks in Shanghai where I did several portraits, including some studies of the most celebrated Chinese actor Mei Lan Fang. I also stopped one day in Nanking to see Pearl Buck & her publisher Walsh, of John Day & Co. (also now editor of Asia Magazine) will be out in March, and both are coming to Peking in April, and perhaps we may get together in some sort of collaboration. After seeing a bit more of China the more content I feel to remain in Peking, as there is no place to compare with its advantages, and I think that I can do yet more important work there.

Mrs. McFaddon has written that she has heard from Nannie. I have not yet heard from you since Mother's death but I suppose there is a letter on the way. I did receive one from Nannie (about the end of Oct.) with many enclosures for which I am always glad to receive. I hope that your Xmas was happy.

I spent a very agreeable one, motoring for three days about Hangchow, which is called "the Beauty Spot of China"; with its lakes, mountains, seacoast, temple shrines of pilgrimage, bamboo forests, farming villages etc etc. it is reminiscent of Japan, rather than other parts of China. There is a good motor road from Shanghai and many good ones about Hangchow. This also is unlike the rest of China.

Did you get an Xmas package from me?
and did you have to pay any duty?

As said before, should you have the urge
to write, don't suppress it!
Yrs.

Schs.

Jan 4 1934



Mr Stanley L. Handforth
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