

Jan Jan 10th 1932

c/o American Express Co
Peiping China

Dear Mother -

Let me see, my last letter was from the German Hospital *m'est-ce pas?* Well, the Doctor let me out Christmas eve, and I went to my little house to find it already decorated with many cedar chains wreaths and Christmas greens, and a twisted dwarf pine, posing as a real Xmas tree with tinsel and red berries. There were many pots of narcissi and other flowers so the place looked very festive. You can see from this little sample what nice deeds are continually being done by the good people of Peking. One present which pleased me immensely was a gayly colored ~~to~~ cotton hand woven table cover or bed spread. Its primitive geometric design might have been Guatemalan or Bulgarian rather than Chinese; it suited my taste to a T.

But 24 hours at home was too much excitement for me, and when Capt & Mrs Mayer, too very good friends of mine, came to kidnap me, it was discovered that I had developed a fever again, so I could offer no arguments against being carried off to convalesce in their foreign style house where I remained until Jan 4th with the best of care and also the best American style home cooking and lots of company. I almost regret being well again I had such a good time.

Still I am leading a comparatively ~~quiet~~ ^{lazy} life, but will be hard at work again soon. Last week the Guggenheims sent me a radiogram asking me to forward my work to them immediately - which I did. It means that they are considering a renewal of my Fellowship - let us pray.

Mat of the pure white snow which fell before Christmas is melted or is the color of mud, but the weather is exhilaratingly crisp and clear, and there is skating on the Winter Palace Lakes, and on the ponds of various clubs.

I am wondering if the bundle of rags which I mailed to you ever arrived. By the way, if you are doing any house furnishing in a big way this is a good time to buy here - no tourist trade, & not much export. ~~At~~ Dealers in objects d'art are almost giving their goods away. Also as it approaches Chinese New Year (Feb 14th) merchants become hard pressed for cash.

Pardon brevity, I'm whirling socially again in a few minutes - this time at the French Legation. I wish you were here to whirl too - this is just the sort of village you would like, except for the dust, dirt, rats, mosquitoes, scorpions, beetles, bad water, bumpy roads, no radios (thank God) etc etc etc

With love

Scho.