

14 Kan Yen Hutung
Jan 3, 1937

Dear Nannie.

I have been glowing and gloating over the contents of a big fat package which arrived last night from you; not only I, but my boy and the cook, and my apprentice, and all the coolies and clerks in the shop in the outside courtyard, have been violently intrigued by the kind of house you live in, especially by the kitchen, which naturally they believe, has been cleaned up just for the photo and could never be kept in such order.

The wall papers are most charming and so are the curtains. I should think you would be most satisfied with the results. I can't quite figure out the topography of the hallway, and my creative instinct urge itches to do something about the nook with the narrow door which could be the decorative piece de resistance, and has been completely neglected. As I see it there should be a shallow arch under the outer edge of the stairway and, instead of four dark doors in pale wall paper the whole thing should be panelled, and all in one color (white) so that for instance the narrow door

would be balance by a panel of similar design. The radio speaker too. I should think, would be less disturbing if built into harmoniously proportioned panelling. All this could be done easily at a later time because it is merely superficial alteration. The grounds of your estate look immense and will seem even larger when the trees have grown a bit.

The whole package is by way of reproaching me for my neglect of you. Worse than not writing to you, I've bought nothing for your house. Although I've avoided curio shops for months & months, I have considered numerous sets of pictures for your screen but failed to purchase. I'm all excited now about getting something to decorate your palace, and will be sending a thing or two shortly.

This has been a busy and a happy season. First preparing for my exhibition with a sudden burst of energy during the late Autumn Show, as usual, in my house, but with the added attraction of sculptures by Luile Swan. Her work, whether in bronze, pewter, terra cotta, wood, or plaster is all small so it harmonized

2) we will appear in the name Xmas 1935 number of Tourist Country. In well as will appear in the name Xmas 1935 number of Tourist Country. In well as

It is name is Derek Hill and we discovered a strange going place. That perfectly with my small pictures. Also many of her subjects are similar as we have often used the same wrestlers acrobats etc as models. Still greater variety was added to the show by my recent drawings in red and brown inks, and sanguine and grey chalks. It was the most effectively arranged show that Peking has seen since I've been here and did they appreciate it. 250 persons came on the first day and they kept coming 20, 30, 40 strong for the ten days which the show lasted. I am always modest in my expectations in sales here, so as usual, I was pleasantly surprised; much better results financially than shows in America. This in spite of the fact that the foreign colony is continuously dwindling and getting poorer. It ended on Xmas eve; by that time I had acquired as a house guest a most agreeable young Englishman scenic designer and costumer who accompanied me on a concluding round of parties thru

the holidays. It was the merriest Christmas I have yet experienced and to top it all off, your red shirt with white stripe at last came into its own on New Years Eve. There was a grand costume ball which I tried to take seriously by rushing around at the last minute to theatrical costumers trying on all sorts of gorgeous effects, but unable to decide on any of them. With my head in a whirl I rushed into a rope and rope shop, bought a pair of Chinese ladies pink knitted drawers (which come half below the knee) bright red stockings, and electric blue sack a purple batik kerchief to drape on my bosom, a girls red & white knitted cap to wear at a rakish angle, rabbit fur ear muffs, ancient Chinese dark shell rimmed spectacles, pink cotton gloves with roses hand-painted on the backs, and the red shirt. The guests still in a sober state when I arrived, were horrified, and even my hosts refused to recognize me. I fled in embarrassment, but returned a few hours later, when drinks had put the company in a more tolerant mood, in fact I was the sensation of the evening.

The red shirt had come in for some hard knocks before: Once I wore it at a large cocktail party given by an American Colonel.

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The three daughters all jumped on me saying it was an insult to their family to come dress that way. I tried to explain that the color had no political significance, but the whole family has been suspicious of me ever since. Alas the glories of that shirt seem destined to shine only as fancy-dress!

Poor Stan! Even his business letters get no answer from me. I am grateful for his correspondence in regard to the taxation of securities held by non resident aliens, and his releasing me from that imposition, even tho I do feel more like a man without a country than an American.

Also my thanks, for that now ancient service of telling the Trust Officer of the Nat. City Bank of Tacoma that I am not interested in paying taxes on tideland property, whether the other stockholders are interested in keeping their shares or not.

From my bank statement, I am not quite clear which are the deposits from my bond coupons. But I am querying that \$50.00 of a \$57.50 deposit on May 18th and that \$100.00 of a \$107.50 deposit on Nov. 10th, making a total of \$150.00 cover the year's income from the

2 Australian Bonds and 1 City of Helsinki for.
What about returns on the Pacific Terminal Bond?
Would you please ask Stan, or no doubt you
know more about it than he does. If it
wearies you to look after this business of
mine maybe it could be turned over to the
bank. It does trouble my conscience that you
should be obliged to do it.

There are a few ^{other} receipts of deposits
made, which I have not received but I
can guess, I think, correctly, ~~on~~ the depositor's

Have you any good tips on stocks
now? I have more money which I
wish to invest. I might even be interested
in farm land in a future section
of Delaware or New Jersey. I believe
that you could advise even better in
Real Estate than in stocks or bonds.

My children's book is not yet done. I
find it very embarrassing having received
advance royalties so long ago, and every
now and then Doubleday Doran send me a
present of some new book just to remind
me that I have obligations toward them.
But I continually procrastinate hoping for

(A)
the mood to sweep me into it. It looks like I'll have to kick myself into it without waiting to be inspired.

Skating is the thing of the moment here at all the clubs and at the numerous lakes & ponds in the city. I haven't been at it very much but plan to before the cold is over. There should be at least a month & a half more of good ice.

My art classes continue to be popular Friday afternoons and Saturday mornings I have about 24 pupils from 10 years up to 40. of various nationalities. The most clever one is a 14 year old boy half Chinese half Mexican. - his father was one time Minister to Mexico. I am astonished at the amount of pleasure I get out of them especially the youngsters. Sometimes I wonder if I am teaching them anything but console myself with the philosophy that art has to be self learn. Anyway they think they are having a grand time as good as going to a party.

Enclosed a few snaps
And please forgive me
I'll write to you every two weeks henceforth
Maybe.
Ever and always yours

Thomas H.

(over)

Have you met Mrs. Russell yet?

My Chinese apprentice has received a letter from John R. that he will shortly be returning to China.

Thanks again for the wall paper!

T.H.