

14 Kan Gu Hutung

Peiping

May 14

[1936]

Dear Nannie -

Already back in Peiping almost 3 weeks and no letter off to you. I'm still dreaming that beautiful dream of enchanting Hawaii, in spite of the fact that the last lap of my journey turned into a nightmare. That began at Kobe where I had sent my baggage on by N.Y.K. after disembarking at Yokohama. In Tokyo, the high spot was a magnificent performance at the Kabuki-za, all the most famous Kabuki actors in one program of seven plays which lasted eight hours! The sets and costumes were finer than anything elsewhere in the Theatrical world, and the drama so heartrending, that Japanese ladies and gentlemen left with sleeves full of handkerchiefs soaked with tears.

Having decided to journey via Korea & Mukden. I had just two hours in Kobe to collect my baggage; the Customs Officials having no one else to work on at the moment, minutely inspected every item I possessed, confiscating a lot of drawings, photographs and some books, everything that suggested nudity or semi-nudity: "for the cause of purity!" At Fusan there was another examination and again at the Manchukuo frontier where one trunk was held up for two days, another completely smashed. On the train thru Korea I could not sit in my own reserved seat because it happened to be desired by some cut-throat-looking officers. Mukden was grey, sullen skies, forbidding, without a sign of Spring. Fortunately a very good friend of mine, vice consul there took me in while I waited for my trunks and I was able to observe the raucous gaiety of neon-lit dance halls by night where swagging Romans in grey underwear, boots and spurs,

dance with a "Geisha and Modern Girl" two at a time, and use their knives on B.A.T. American youths who believe in the equal distribution of femininity. Aviators arrives at the dance hall with parachutes still tied on their backs!

Piping too looked exceedingly weather-beaten after a long hard siege of winter. But the glory of Spring and Summer have now burst simultaneously and I am busy drawing deer and ducks, goose and mongoose in the garden of a friend of mine.

The other day at a luncheon at the Embassy was telling Johnson - the Ambassador about Fletcher Loughbeeds letters and he asked me if he could have a photostatic copy of the one concerning the siege of Nanking during the Taiping rebellion. He wants to hang it in his office in Nanking.

Do you think you could have this copy made? (it might be done in a format which would be eventually used uniformly for all the letters). The interesting page is, and remember, the one which describes his being decorated on the wall of Nanking.

Tell me how the house goes and what else you need in things Chinese beside a fire screen, lion pictures, and the screen pictures. So I can have them in mind as I look around.

Yours

Scho



May 14-1936



Mrs. Stanley L. Handforth  
200 Lighthouse Road  
Wilmington  
Del.  
U.S.A

Thomas Handforth  
14 Kam Yu Hutime  
Peiping, China.