

THE FREIGHT DEPARTMENT.

Osaka, Nov. 1, 1935

MITSUI BUSSAN KAISHA, LTD.

Dear Prasidh,

I trust that you received my postal, written in haste, that I was leaving Bangkok via steamship Asahisan, which has just arrived at this port of Osaka. I am going to visit this vicinity for 2 days, and I plan to take the early 6.55 A.M. train for Tokyo, (Sunday) which arrives at Tokyo station at 3.25 P.M. If it is convenient for you and Lesce to come down to the station and help me with my baggage, I shall be glad. I have got two boxes for you that your mother sent, and I have my steamer trunk, two suitcases, typewriter and violin case. I hope we can get it all in one taxie. I think we can if we get a large one. You see it is inconvenient to have so much baggage, but I don't mind if I can get someone to help me. I made two trips in Bangkok to get the stuff down, but I think we can manage in one this time.

I am glad to say that the 14 days, almost 15 days, of sea voyaging is over, but I dread the wide Pacific. I am planning to go by way of Canadian Pacific steamship, the Empress of Japan, which leaves Yokohama on the 8th of Nov., and stops at Honolulu, which will break the trip. It is a fast boat, and only 6 days to Honolulu, for which I am thankful.

There were only 2 other passengers, Japanese, who could hardly speak any English, but I found them kind and friendly. The crew is very nice, and I have spent much time in the operator's office, listening to radio, talking, etc. He cannot speak as well as you and Lesce can though. I did much reading, and my eyes got tired of so much at one time. I played the violin in the mornings in the dining hall, as that seemed to be the best time to not disturb anyone sleeping.

I am glad to get into Tokyo on a Sunday, as I believe you have holiday then, and it will be convenient for you to come down to the station. I am planning to stay at the Tokyo Y.M. C.A., but I want to deliver the boxes at your home first and then take my baggage on to the Y. M. C. A.

I trust both of you are well, and do not mind the chilly weather so much. One good thing is that the winter does not come on so sudden, but gradually. Then also it is not so severe as most place in the temperate zone, but it is a little colder than California. We have had rainy weather and cloudy weather most of the way with a strong northeast wind, which made the boat pitch (rock) a good bit. I only missed one meal though. I was not sick enough to vomit, but dizzy and had a little fever. I hope I shall be free from seasickness on the second half of my journey. Just think I am only half way, but I sort of feel that I am near home in Japan. The similarity of climate and activity of the people makes me feel more like home I suppose.

I have several letters to deliver to you from you folks, Monitt, etc. I have been wondering whether that choral society has given its concert. I would like to hear some good music while in Tokyo. If there is time I would like to take the electric railway up to Nikko. It takes about 2 and one half hours I understand, and not an expensive trip. 2 yen and 13 sen I believe, oneway and perhaps about 4 yen roundtrip. Mr. Degen, my Swiss friend in Bangkok, you know the teacher at Suan Kular School, Chaleo's old Teacher, told me about Nikko. He used to live in Japan for almost 12 years, and of course knows the country rather well. I shall miss him much, as he was such a good piano player, and was always willing to accompany me on the violin every time I called to see him. He always insisted on taking me home in his roadster, even though I protested I could easily get home on the bus and tram. Next to your family and relatives, Mr. Degen was the best friend I had. If your mother could have spoken English, I know she could have told me her feelings, and I realize that she of course was my good friend, but could not express that to me.

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I shall miss Charain, your brother-in-law. It will be hard to find a more sincere, honest person than he was. Then of course I shall miss Chaleo, your sister, and all of them. The sadest thing in life is to part from friends. When I left New York City in the winter of 1921, it was the same thing. I had to say good bye to many people I will never see again. Remember New York is 3,000 miles from California, and most people can never afford to take such long journeys. When I get home in California, I hope to be with my mother as long as she lives. If by chance I should get a position in Japan or Honolulu, I might be able to take her along with me, but Bangkok is a little too far, and the climate would be rather hard on an old person not accustomed to it. My future is uncertain, but I shall not worry about it.

I shall be free to roam wherever there is a job when my mother dies, but now I feel that I must stay with her until her death. Naturally I would like to locate in Los Angeles, as I like that place and have well acquainted with it and ^{know} many people there.

Your sister looks better now. She has been staying with Deb's wife, your sister. The air out there is fresher, and she has been drinking milk, etc. It is very important for us to look out for our health, as life is not worth living unless one is healthy;

I believe your mother sent some music and food in those boxes. You will find out when you open them.

I hope you are finding your studies in music interesting and encouraging. Monitt told me to tell you that he is working hard on his music. I believe he is going to try a competitive examination to go abroad to study. I hope he succeeds. He deserves success.

When I see you I will have a chance to say many more things that I just can't think of right now, and, as you know, there is nothing like conversation. Letter writing is not so informal.

During the last 2 days I have been writing letters. One home, one to the teachers and students at the school where I taught. I told them about the trip and the boat, etc. Then I wrote to Mr. Degen. There are others I ought to write to, but will have to wait until I get ashore and send some cards. After I have seen you I shall write to your sister who can give the news to others.

There are so many people to write to, but I shall have to limit my correspondence to post cards to most of them. I have my address book full of people's names and addresses. Then also I have been asked to do things. Bud of the Y. M. C. A. wants me to enquire about musical instruments in Tokyo and have the company send letter to him with terms. He wants to buy 100 quantity for some business reason. He also asked me to inquire about ~~axi~~ stationery (writing paper for typewriter), as he said he would buy in large quantity, and thus order direct from factory and elimit the middle man shopkeeper in Bangkok.

Several people gave me small packages to deliver to people in Los Angeles. I have a flute in my trunk to give to Kamut. He had asked them to send it.

Well I guess that is enough rambling. I will have to speak the rest when I see you on Sunday, Nov. 3rd at 3.25 P.M. I hope you can come to the station. I shall need some one to help me get a taxie and show me the way etc. Besides I will feel more at home if there is somebody there to meet me. Tokyo is a big unknown city to me. I have been there two years and ^{one half ago, but only for 2 days.} Well regards to Lesce until we meet.
Yours sincerely, J. Eric Anderson.