

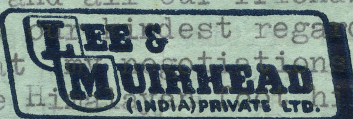
Everything else is fine here. Our friend Shri Pohekar had been in Central And East Africa for nearly two months. He has now returned to Bombay after a very fascinating sojourn in Africa. Shri Kisan Mohan also is very well and all our friends remember you often and I hope in conveying your kindest regards. I would also like to inform you that I have been negotiating about the purchase of a small estate in the hills near Almora. The purchase of this estate has now been completed and I already had purchased this estate which has several small buildings and 16 acres of land. I hope to spend some more time during the year and some more time during the year.

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Date 17th Aug. 1959

My dear Shri Prasiddha & Smt. Ladda,

I trust this will find your family and yourself in the best of health. It is quite a long time since I last heard from you and would, therefore, request you to please do find time to write to me occasionally.

In the meanwhile, we had the great pleasure of meeting Smt. Alta Shepard sometime towards last month. We found her to be extremely cultured and deeply interested in the fine-arts particularly classical dancing. We are, therefore, very thankful to you for asking her to contact me on her arrival in Bombay. I would only wish that you had informed me earlier in which case I would have received her at the Air-port and would have rendered her more assistance. Fortunately however, she arrived here on Saturday afternoon and left on Sunday night. I could, therefore, be with her for full day and a half since my office was closed for that period. On Saturday evening itself I took her to my very intimate friends Shri & Smt. Vasant Shah and with them we went to watch a performance of classical Bharat Natyam dance. It was very fortunate that we had such a classical dance performance that evening. Moreover the dancer also gave full explanations about Bharat Natyam's style and about each item she performed. This was most helpful to Smt. Alta in knowing the background and technique of expression of Bharat Natyam. I also arranged with the wellknown Jhaveri sisters of Bombay to specially perform a Manipuri Dancing on Sunday morning. I am sure you will remember our visit to their home when you were here. We indeed had very interesting talks with them. This time also the Jhaveri sisters obliged us and specially performed different items of Manipuri dancing accompanied with their detailed explanations. Smt. Alta then had lunched at our apartment and we then went over to my cousin brother who is a prominent sitar player. I believe you had met him too while you were in Bombay. He too demonstrated a special recital on sitar which was greatly admired by Smt. Alta. Unfortunately she had to leave the same evening and we could not meet together for longer time. I would, however, request you not to hesitate to inform me when any of your such friends pass through Bombay. It will only be a pleasure to all concerned.

I had of course replied at length to Shri Sod Kurmarohita to his letter about his proposed development scheme. I would therefore like to know if any progress has been made in this direction.

These days I am writing a series of articles about the culture of the different East Asian countries. I believe I will have to write at least three different articles on Siam and on Thai culture. I was therefore going through a copy of 'Thai Digest' Vol.1 No.17 which you had kindly sent to me last year. I find this magazine most interesting and very informative. It also contains a short feature about you too and the detailed article about Khao Phra Vihara. I would, therefore, request you to forward me some old copies of this magazine if they could be obtained. I am sure the information contained in these issues would be of great value to me. I would also particularly like to know more about the ancient temple of Khao Phra Vihara. If possible I would also request you to kindly send me a good photograph of both Ladda and yourself which I would like to reproduce along with my article.

Please do convey my sincere regards and best wishes to Manasaputra as well as to Shri Sod. Awaiting to hear further from you at your early convenience,

Yours affectionately

Navnit Parekh

Navnit Parekh

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