

Letter to Mrs Robert P. Bass
Tucson Arizona

April 25, 1939

My dear Edith:

I am enclosing another lecture. This one was written by a woman, Louise Knight Wheatly Cook. I am quite proud of her! She is something of a poet. I have read some of her poems. If one is looking for it, one gets something of her rhythm in this lecture. Some day I will send you one of her poems.

Next week Tuesday Mabel Garner and I start for the East. Mabel is our Museum cataloguer, a very executive person. We go every summer on a "Museum viewing tour" - always looking for the answer to some specific problem. This summer we are taking up the question of gypsum. We have gypsum in our walls. Question: Does the moisture that gypsum absorbs get through the plaster and affect our Chinese paintings on silk? If so, what can be done about it? I will ask the superintendent of the Art Institute, of the Field Museum, then of the Boston Museum, and of the Metropolitan. The things about caring for museums that these people do not know are not yet known.

In sticking my head into two or three of our cases, I noticed that the air seemed stuffy. Question: Should the cases be kept air-tight all of the time? Or should the door be opened and an electric fan be near by, so placed that it changes the air in the case; and if so, how often?

Our Chinese paintings are in tight frames, with glass over them. Question: Should the glass be taken out to air the picture? These Chinese paintings are on thin silk and the problem is how to preserve this silk.

I hope that when you make an expedition to see the Field Museum you will stop on your way and see the Murray Warner Museum.

Yours very lovingly,

