

70, ABBEY ROAD,

MWK32

ST. JOHN'S WOOD, N.W.8.

#  
May 15 1938

Dearest Gertrude, Please forgive  
me not acknowledging your  
cheque at once. I have begun  
work, & it is difficult to switch  
myself off <sup>to</sup> letter writing.  
Thank you very much for the cheque  
What a very nice son you  
must have. I am sorry I never  
met him. He fell in love with  
Helen straight away!

You ask for prices of the pictures  
I want to present to the museum  
the little shabby <sup>Japanese</sup> "Deer kakemono"  
I think it is a hand coloured  
black print (The <sup>B</sup> museum thought  
so also) You may find it a place  
in ~~the~~ <sup>your</sup> museum. Our <sup>B</sup> museum  
does not know very much about  
Korean things as I wrote you  
before. Our <sup>B</sup> museum thought the dragon  
kakemono 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> century & they

had nothing like them at all -  
 be admired them very much - You  
 will see they have an unusual  
 fine cut out background - I don't  
 know how to explain it; but when I  
 go to Korea next I will haunt  
 the museums & find out what I  
 can of the period & whether they have  
 any like them there. My sister & I consulted  
 & we think \$100 for the pair.

The two others not so old but  
 interesting clouds & odd little  
 figures later period \$60 for the  
 pair. The portrait - \$80 - I am  
 specially fond of it. It is very  
 simple - Holbeinesque. If you wish  
 I will have them professionally  
 packed & sent to you; but if you  
 don't like them - you are in no  
 way to feel obliged to have one.  
 I could show them to other museums  
 when I come next to U. S. A.

The Devil Small ~~Wagon~~ one 16<sup>th</sup> century  
 I shall make \$40. It is "cracked"  
 but very very interesting. I could  
 get ~~it~~ it done up for you when

I go next to Japan (I wonder if that will be possible) we are expecting <sup>various</sup> friends from Japan <sup>soon</sup> & all the teachers (English) are being sent away. They have stopped teaching English in the Peers School. You cannot take more than 7,000 out at one time. The young man who sells prints for me in Tokyo had great difficulty in even placing money for me in the Bank!! I am selling quite well; but of course the money is practically half - of no use to me unless I am living in Japan.

I have made all the prices as low as possible I would much rather they went to you. I think Honolulu would buy Korean things. I was almost forgetting the most important thing of all. I wonder if I told you about a pair of lacquered birds I sent home - very rare Japanese

a pheasant & his wife - they are  
 dull gold - he has green & red  
 on his face, he has his wing  
 over her. They are very unusually  
 beautiful & no one has seen  
 anything like them. The tip of  
 the tail of the husband was  
 broken by a servant in my brother's  
 house. I have had it mended by  
 a Japanese "mender" a wonderful  
 little man an expert - he has never  
 seen anything like them & thinks  
 they are very old. I could not  
 afford to buy the stand but I  
 could send back for it - to Japan  
 I wondered if you would care  
 to have a photograph of them?  
 I don't want to sell them  
 but I have no room to show them  
 off, & I am terrified they get broken  
 even in brother's lovely house is  
 not large enough. The husband  
 bird measures 21" & width 10"  
 They have to be on a table by themselves.

which takes up much room.  
 If I were finally settled in my  
 own house - then nothing would  
 cause me to part with them.

They must have been used at  
 weddings - I once saw an  
 illustrated catalogue (earphone -  
 not a photograph) showing rather  
 similar birds, in the Tokugawa  
 family. I had it translated;  
 that is the only time I have ever  
 come near anything like them.  
 I want to make a painting  
 of them for my own satisfaction.

How I wish you could see my  
 studio - it is really very charming  
 On a beautiful large Korean  
 Cupboard \* on top I have 3 or  
 4 birds all different & unusual  
 Alas! I may have to leave in  
 a few months as the houses  
 in this neighbourhood are coming  
 down. Miss Denton will not  
 write even to her oldest friends  
 I think she knows in her heart that

Japan is entirely to blame.

We read one letter she had written to our friend in California - she was standing up for Japan & condemning the Japanese who had dared to protest - How brave they are! It must take great courage. I admire the President of the Dookisha who was dismissed - what a hero! We read about it in the Monitor also.

Please forgive this disjointed badly written letter; but I write in between the bitings - as the stopping-out varnish takes time to dry.

With much love & hoping  
 your affairs are much happier  
 than you thought - in truth they  
 were never anything else but  
 harmonious  
 Yours lovingly &  
 affectionately  
 Elizabeth