

MWK 32:

70, ABBEY ROAD,  
ST. JOHN'S WOOD, N.W. 8.

March 13<sup>th</sup> 1938

Dearest Gertrude,

I don't know what you can think of me not sending you the prints & sketches you asked for; but I did want to show the scrolls to the B. Museum first.

Everything seems to take so long to accomplish; & it was only yesterday that I went again to the B. M.; & at last, met the man who really knows about Korean & Chinese scrolls.

He was very much impressed & liked all I showed him - They have nothing like the long ~~scrolls~~ dragon scrolls I told you about - He could not be very definite about anything; some of them are 16<sup>th</sup> century! I will write everything down separately.

He likes my portrait very much

MWK 32:

70. ABBEY ROAD  
ST. JOHN'S WOOD, N.W. 8

the one they have was not nearly  
so good as mine - the other two they  
possess, are so large that they  
had no room to exhibit them - one is  
a family group. <sup>I did not see them.</sup> He kept back the  
portrait to copy all the writing  
on it & translate it for me, which  
is extremely kind of him, he would  
not have done so had he not  
liked it. Now, I did not obey you  
about photographing them all -  
as it seems a waste of money -  
I enclose the bill for 2 I had  
photographed; they give an idea  
of the colours. At any rate it is  
just as cheap to post them, & you  
can take your leisure, & you are in  
no way to feel you must buy  
unless you really like & want  
them.

One that appealed to the Curator -  
Mr Gray, is a demon fighting a black  
demon 33" x 19 1/2" painted on paper  
lovely greens & reds, he says it is 16<sup>th</sup> century  
they have one a little like it; which he

showed me, (a reproduction) of it.  
 If you do get the Korean New Year  
 greeting cards photographed, please  
 send them to me, he might be able  
 to tell me something - if not, some  
 time this year, <sup>there</sup> is a man  
 returning home, <sup>from Seoul</sup> who can give  
 me some information. It is  
 amazing how little is really  
 known about Korean things.

My sister is unwilling to give up  
 the 4 scrolls (with figures & clouds)  
 but I will send you 2 <sup>of them</sup>. The 2 she has  
 are hanging at the sides of 2 chests on  
 her staircase - 16" wide x 2 1/2 yards long  
 The colouring is enchanting - were  
 it not for those cupboards it would  
 be impossible to hang them in  
 any other house! If they ever leave  
 their present house, I am sure  
 you will have as difficult in  
 securing them. I have a very  
 charming Chinese scroll a making  
 copy of a Tang painting - <sup>you must</sup>  
 told me <sup>(he was correct)</sup>  
 By Li Chao Tao. Would you care to see it?

I am sending you now the 3 prints you ask for The Priest (Japanese)

A game of Chess

New Year's Shopping - a gift to you.

I did not make a colour study of Spring in Soochow - I may have made a rough colour sketch after the careful pencil sketch (which I am sending you) I added the figure on the incline of the bridge afterwards.

I am sending also the colour study of Shiqiyama in green. I put the 2 lines behind him to suggest a curtain, & when I found it was too monotonous I had the 'mon' cut after we had our trial proof! One can never be sure until you have proofed a print.

You ask the price of the painting of the Aino man - to you \$150 but to anyone else double that sum. I know ~~it~~ it is the only picture of an Aino, that type at least - in existence. There are no more Ainos of that period living

(5)

He was <sup>over</sup> 80 when I sketched him  
19 years ago! I know of no artist who  
made studies of the ainu.  
I wonder if you presented the  
Ainu things to Portland?  
If not I think Honolulu might  
be glad of them - I am sorry  
I did not think of it before.  
However, if you have; then all  
is well - they will not be wasted  
As I have not heard from  
Portland, perhaps you have  
not yet presented them? -  
as long as they are not wasted  
I am glad.

I have not yet heard from  
the B. Museum, so I shall send  
all descriptions in another  
letter & shall send it air  
mail. I have so little room  
to house all my goods. I might  
also <sup>be</sup> tempted to hang my  
portrait of the Korean Scholar!

6

I have begun work on a "Korean princess"  
I find it difficult to take up the  
threads again. I wish I could  
afford to paint & not have to do  
all the terrible drudgery of etching -  
colour etching more especially - it  
is terrifically hard work, & I am tired;  
at least mortal mind says so - but  
fortunately it cannot tell the  
truth. An artists life is not an  
easy one, I enjoy the painting or  
drawing, but bread & butter must  
be made! I am so grateful when  
people enjoy & want my work.  
I am so grateful to you dear  
friend for buying so many. I do  
hope they will help, & encourage  
& inspire many students  
with much love to you & thanks always.

Yours affectionally  
Elizabeth Keith