

MWK32

see Ainu Material

Station: Kingham, G.W.R. (2½ miles)

Tels: Shipton-under-Wychwood, 26

Idbury Manor, Kingham, Oxford

September 8th, 1937

19

1918

Dear Gertrude,

I am here with my sister and her husband and I have been looking up many possessions, etc., which they have stored for years for me. Among them I find my precious Ainu things which I collected in Hokkaido when I first went to Japan <sup>19 years ago.</sup> I want to give them to you for your museum. I hope you will think them worthy. They are most primitive and some of the beads in the necklaces are ancient. A curio dealer in Tokyo was very anxious to buy them from me at one time. One necklace that I very much wanted to have, was worn by an old blind woman, whom I sketched, but she refused to sell. The missionary lady who looked after that district told me that the old woman would be buried with it. I have some pencil sketches and a precious water-colour of the old man - the Ainu chief - which is reproduced in Eastern Windows. I am quite sure that there is not such a picture in the world today. All the old men have died and the young people, under Japanese influence, are forgetting the old customs. They speak Japanese today.

I am enclosing a list of the things that I am sending. I have also fixed a ticket with the name to each article so you will have no difficulty when the box arrives in identifying them. I have had a rough wooden box made and will send it off this week.

Let me know if you would like to buy the water-colour of the old Ainu chief. It is very precious to me, but you are the only person in the world who would appreciate and understand its value, and in your museum it would be safe for ever.

I have not done as you asked me and sent you any Korean pictures, except the sketches, but I have been moving from place to place since I came home.

I have been fortunate in finding a studio in London near two of my sisters and I shall be busy moving in there next week.

I wish I could describe some of the Korean paintings but it is difficult to explain. At least I will give you their sizes. There are two dragon pictures, one an orange dragon and the other green. They are scroll pictures 3½ yards long by 16" wide, and the longer I look at them the more sure I am they must have come from the throne room of the old Korean Emperor's palace. The other two sketches are 2 yards long by 24" wide and are

paintings

Anna M. ...

MW 137

Ibbury Manor, Kingham, Oxford

Station: Kingham, O.W.R. (2 1/2 miles)  
Tele: 241 (Kingham-Warwood, 20)

September 8th, 1937

19

1937

Dear Gertrude,

I am here with my sister and her husband and I have been looking up many possessions, etc., which they have stored for years for me. Among them I find my precious Aino things which I collected in Hokkaido when I first went to Japan. I want to give them to you for your museum. I hope you will think them worthy. They are most primitive and some of the beads in the necklaces are ancient. A curio dealer in Tokyo was very anxious to buy them from me at one time. One necklace that I very much wanted to have, was worn by an old blind woman, whom I sketched, but she refused to sell. The missionary lady who looked after that district told me that the old woman would be buried with it. I have some pencil sketches and a precious water-colour of the old man - the Aino chief - which is reproduced in Eastern Windows. I am quite sure that there is not such a picture in the world today. All the old men have died and the young people, under Japanese influence, are forgetting the old customs. They speak Japanese today.

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Let me know if you would like to buy the water-colour of the old Aino chief. It is very precious to me, but you are the only person in the world who would appreciate and understand its value and in your museum it would be safe for ever.

I have not done as you asked me and sent you any Korean pictures, except the sketches, but I have been moving from place to place since I came home.

I have been fortunate in finding a studio in London near two of my sisters and I shall be busy moving in there next week.

I wish I could describe some of the Korean paintings but it is difficult to explain. At least I will give you their sizes. There are two dragon pictures, one an orange dragon and the other green. They are scroll pictures 2 1/2 yards long by 16" wide, and the longer I look at them the more sure I am they must have come from the throne room of the old Korean Emperor's palace. The other two sketches are 2 yards long by 24" wide and are



As I don't know their address I will send it to you if you will kindly forward.

*quite different from those I saw in Boston  
I should think much older.*

Bhudistic studies. Again I have never seen anything like them, not only for the design but for the beautiful colouring and the lovely borders. There are altogether four of these, but my sister does not wish to give hers up, as they fit in beautifully on her stair-case in two niches. In addition to these Korean scroll pictures, I still have a few Chinese Burial Portraits pictures. The one I like best I have always called my 'Chinese Holbein' picture. It is ~~in blue~~ <sup>the finest</sup> with a very delightful ~~heart~~ <sup>including a lady</sup>. I also have ~~several of the red pictures~~ <sup>2 or 3</sup>, which are so much sought after. I am not sending these to you until I hear for certain that you want to see them. They will become more and more rare, and this dreadful war must have already wiped out countless treasures.

We are all broken hearted about the unnecessary and cruel war. It is less abhor than a massacre, and one of the most pro-Japanese friends that I have, who came to see me today, was ashamed of the behaviour of the Japanese. I maintain, however, that the Japanese people are not in any way responsible. It is only the military group that so dishonestly hid the truth from their own people and are led away by the lust for power. But they are no worse than Italy or Germany!

Yours with much love  
Affectionately  
Elizabeth

Answer to y Studio  
70. Abbey Road  
St. John's Wood  
London N. W. 8.

P. S. I am not accustomed to dictate so forgive mistakes. I am sending a "Countryman" to your son & daughter in law, she is so fond of the best country side. She might wish to be a subscriber.



*quite different from those I see in the East  
I believe that a much better*

Buddhist studies. Again I have never seen anything like them  
not only for the design but for the beautiful colouring and the  
lovely borders. There are altogether four of these, but my  
stater does not wish to give hers up as they fit in beautifully  
on her stair-case in two niches. In addition to these Korean  
scroll pictures, I still have a few Chinese Burial Portraits  
pictures. The one I like best I have always called my 'Chinese  
Holbein'. It is a picture with a very delightful background  
I also have a few other pictures, which are so  
much sought after. I am not sending these to you until I hear  
for certain that you want to see them. They will become more  
and more rare, and this beautiful war must have already wiped out  
countless treasures.

*including  
a copy*

*of course I am  
very glad to hear  
of your interest  
in the pictures  
I shall be glad  
to send you a  
copy of the book  
if you wish*

We are all broken hearted about the unnecessary and  
cruel war. It is less a war than a massacre, and one of the  
most pro-Japanese friends that I have, who came to see me today,  
was ashamed of the behaviour of the Japanese. I maintain  
however, that the Japanese people are not in any way responsible.  
It is only the military group that so dishonestly hid the truth  
from their own people and are led away by the lust for power.  
But they are no worse than Italy or Germany!

Yours with much love  
Affecting  
Sincerely

Answer to P. 2. Jan  
70. Abbey Road  
St. John's Wood  
London N. W. 8.  
P. 2. Jan has been accused of being a  
mistake. Jan is a member of a  
committee. She is so fond of the  
country side. She might visit to a  
suburban.