

3 HSI-CHIAO HUTUNG
PEPING, CHINA

November 18, 1931.

My dear Gertrude,

I am sending you by parcel post a copy of the new book on porcelains of the Sung and Ming dynasties which has been prepared by Mr. Kuo and myself. It has taken us about five years to do this work, but I think you will agree with me when you see the book that it has been worth while. It is the most beautiful production that has ever been made in China and the contents will be new to the world. On account of our knowledge of the collection of the Palace Mr. Kuo and I have been able to verify the colors of the various wares of these two dynasties in such a way as it has not been possible for anyone else to do for at least two hundred years. The cost is Mex.\$300, which is now about U.S.\$100, but even at this high price Mr. Kuo and I will not recoup ourselves. All of the work in this book has been done in China by Chinese with the exception of what I have done and it is a fine example of what can be done in China with patience and persistence.

I recently purchased two paintings for you, both of the Southern Sung dynasty period. Enclosed I am sending you a description of them. Please let me know whether or not you want them and if so whether I shall send them as they are or have them mounted for you. I bought the two of them for a song, i.e. Mex.\$500. If you do not want them I will keep them for myself.

Mary and I have been disappointed at not going to America during the last year but we were obliged to change all our plans on account of Mary's illness. It has all turned out for the best, for Mary is now well and will soon be back with us to resume her work in the P.U.M.C.. I am afraid that she will not be able to see you, for the doctor gave her strict orders to make no unnecessary detours. She is due to leave Vancouver January 2nd on the Empress of Canada. When she arrives and we see how she is Mary and I will make our minds about going home and then we shall be able to send you our definite plans.

Mary joins me with much love to you.

As ever,

John

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