

San-Ko Kansha, Yoshida Honmachi, Kyoto.  
September 18, 1939

Dear Mrs. Warner;

I returned here from Korea and North China about two weeks ago, and school has been going just one week. It seems difficult to realize in this peaceful place that a war of world magnitude is in progress in Europe, and in all likelihood of spreading further soon. But then, here in Kyoto the war even in China has always seemed something of an abstraction.

While I was in Peking I bought a list of books for you at the French Book Store, a bill of lading for which you will probably receive before this letter. For the most part I bought books which you do not have in the Museum Library, but in several cases in accordance with your suggestion before I left I duplicated some of last year's purchases. The most expensive single purchase was the six volume French (Chavannes) translation (reprint) of the most famous Chinese historical writer, the so-called "Father of Chinese History", Se-M Ts'ên, which I think you will be glad to have. Because of present conditions it is impossible to ship a box of books out of Peking, as it was possible last year, and consequently I had the order sent by book post. The order serial number is 21991.

I also made considerable purchases for myself, largely of titles which I had already secured for you, but which I was not in a position to buy for myself last year. I have taken the liberty of having them sent also to the Museum Library. They will also be in book post, but will arrive somewhat later than your books, and will bear the serial number H.J.N. 21992. I have, of course, paid all charges on my books, including postage.

The variations and fluctuations of foreign exchange in recent weeks I could not foresee, and consequently had to work at the earlier, legal Japanese foreign exchange level. In consequence I did not have quite enough to cover the whole purchase and pay the postage as well. I had counted on shipping by freight by reverse charges. I have already written my brother in San Francisco to send the balance owing directly to Peking, so that while your bill of lading will indicate a debit against you that will have been wiped out before we can correspond again.

The excess which I have expended comes to about ten dollars American. At your convenience you might send that sum to my brother (who is taking care of my accounts in America) Dr. Glenn A. Noble, 787 Ninth Avenue, San Francisco.

Upon my return here I found a cablegram from Dr. R.C. Clark

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I also made considerable purchases for myself, largely of titles which I had already secured for you, but which I was not in a position to buy for myself last year. I have taken the liberty of having them sent also to the Museum Library. They will also be in book post, but will arrive somewhat later than your books, and will bear the serial number H.J.N. 21922. I have, of course, paid all charges on my books, including postage.

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asking me to return for the fall term since Dr. Reid had been invited to take a post at Washington. I could not leave on such short notice here (my contract requires the giving of a three months notice) and cabled that I could come for winter term, asking for a reply. None has come. Because of the war, and other factors, however, I have decided to return to America at the end of December, and have already presented my resignation to the college authorities in accordance with my contract requirements. How soon I shall go to Eugene, however, I do not know at the moment of writing. Since, if I am free from teaching I wish to finish writing my book on Korea, and since practically all the materials are in the basement of your museum with my things there, I imagine I shall be appearing early in January in any case. To tell the truth, I hope I have the free time for writing- as long as my small funds hold out.

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Sincerely yours,

*Harold F. Kable*

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*Harold K. Webb*