

2618 College Ave., Berkeley, Calif.  
February 19, 1937

Mrs. Gertrude B. Warner,  
University of Oregon.

Dear Mrs. Warner;

I have thought ever since I went on leave that I would write you, but my sad habit of procrastination where letter-writing is concerned has prevailed. But I have been concerned for fear that you might be under a misapprehension. Shortly before you left Eugene for the East last spring you had Miss Klockers call me up to enquire the truth of a rumour that I did not intend to be back in Eugene in the fall. In all sincerity I told her I then for the first time learned of the rumour, and so far as I knew I would be back. Later, after you had gone east, local developments caused me to wish to get a year's leave, but finances prevented. But meanwhile I made application to the General Education Board (the Rockefeller foundation) for a fellowship for a year's language study, and about the middle of July I received the appointment which I now hold. I at once made application for and received a year's leave of absence.

It is quite possible you have not thought further of that inquiry, but in any case I would not wish to have you under the misapprehension that I had misinformed you of my intentions.

My year here has been going very well. Of course, it is too much to expect that I should become a fluent Japanese scholar overnight, but I shall have good foundations laid by the end of this year. And I have great hopes of spending next year in Tokyo, that I may build the walls on those foundations. In addition to my language studies I have been carrying on quite a bit of research in Korean history, and have been auditing courses and reading in the general fields of Chinese and Japanese civilization (Buddhism, the family, literature, etc.) In fact, I have arranged for the introduction of a new course at Oregon, if I go back there, of two hours each term, on the cultural history of China and Japan. My other three hours course would be renamed "The Far East in Modern Times", and would run through the year dealing with political, social and economic history. With the two courses I would be able to give students a much better offering and better understanding of the peoples and countries of the Far East. Likewise, the new course would enable me to make a much better use of your library and museum facilities.



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At present I have great hopes of getting a small stipend from the Japan Cultural Society (the organization that sent Harada to Eugene) to enable me to study in Tokyo for a year, next year. I had a letter yesterday from Dr. Harada, and he told me the prospects of the society making such an appointment were very good. I have written to Dr. Boyer, Dean Gilbert and Dr. Clark, to sound them out on their reactions to an extension of my leave for a year. Of course, until and if the appointment is actually offered I'll not be in a position to make formal request for leave, and that won't be for another month at least. But I do want to get an idea of their reaction, since without assurance of a position at the end of the year's study I could hardly afford to take the appointment. Being married, as I am now, and having no private income, I would need to have a job to come back to. The Society will make no provision for my transportation to Japan or back; I hope to be able to sell my car for enough to cover that cost. Unfortunately, the stipend is so small it will not cover both mine and my wife's living expenses, and she will have to remain in the United States for that year. We will dislike the separation very much, but that opportunity of a year's study in Japan is so valuable I cannot afford to let it go despite the personal discomfort it will involve.

I wonder how your prize contest was conducted this year. I have heard so little from Eugene that I have heard nothing of it.

I shall be teaching in Eugene during the summer session this year (if I go to Japan, I'll be leaving in August after summer session). I'm going to teach a course on the cultural history of China and Japan, in addition to a graduate Far East Seminar. Six weeks is a short time to make much of an acquaintance with such vast and ancient civilizations as those of China and Japan, but I hope to be able to give the students something of an introduction. I'm looking forward with pleasure to teaching again. I really enjoy teaching, and while this year's work has indeed been pleasant, I shall be glad to instruct a class again. I want especially to try out several new ideas of pedagogy in Oriental studies which I have been evolving, as well as new material which I have learned.

I hope the year has gone well with you and with the Museum.

Sincerely yours,

*Lowell Holt*



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*Henry Hale*